

The ALABAMA REVIEW

A Quarterly Journal of Alabama History

VOLUME I • JANUARY, 1948 • NUMBER 1

Contents

ALABAMA AS A FIELD OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN	1
THE SHELBY IRON WORKS IN THE CIVIL WAR: A STUDY OF A CONFEDERATE INDUSTRY FRANK E. VANDIVER	12
ALABAMA'S SHIFTING COTTON BELT J. ALLEN TOWER	27
HISTORICAL SOCIETIES IN ALABAMA ALLEN J. GOING	39
NOTES AND DOCUMENTS	50
BOOK REVIEWS	64
NEWS AND NOTICES	72

Published by UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA PRESS, University, Alabama
in co-operation with the ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Editor: W. STANLEY HOOLE, University of Alabama

Editorial Board: LEON F. SENSABAUGH, 1951, Birmingham-Southern College.
WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN, 1951, Alabama Polytechnic Institute. GEORGE V. IRONS,
1950, Howard College. CAREY V. STABLER, 1950, Florence State Teachers College.
WALTER B. JONES, 1949, Montgomery, Ala. MRS. J. E. BECK, 1949, Mobile, Ala.

Managing Editor: JAMES B. McMILLAN, University of Alabama

CONTRIBUTORS

ALLEN J. GOING, assistant professor of history at the University of Alabama, is a native of Birmingham. He received his A.B. and A.M. degrees from the University of Alabama and his Ph.D., in history, from the University of North Carolina.

W. STANLEY HOOLE, director of libraries of the University of Alabama and author of *The Ante-Bellum Charleston Theatre*, *Sam Slick in Texas* and other books, is a frequent contributor to both scholarly and popular periodicals. At present he is preparing a biography of the early American humorist, Johnson Jones Hooper.

WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN, who received his Ph.D. degree from Vanderbilt University, is a research professor of history at Auburn. He is the author of articles in the *Journal of Mississippi History*, the *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, the *Journal of Southern History*, *Agricultural History*, and other periodicals. In addition, he has a book on a Black Belt plantation now in press and two other books in preparation.

J. ALLEN TOWER, a native of Washington State, Ph.D. University of Washington, is an associate professor of geography at Birmingham-Southern. During 1947-48 he is on sabbatical leave with a Julius Rosenwald Fellowship to work on a geography of Alabama.

FRANK E. VANDIVER, of Austin, Texas, is a student of Confederate history, particularly the problems of ordnance and supply. He holds a Rockefeller Fellowship in American studies at the University of Texas, 1947-48, and has held a Postwar Rockefeller Fellowship in the Humanities, 1946-47. He is the author of numerous articles in historical journals and is the editor of *The Civil War Diary of General Josiah Gorgas*.

EDITORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The editors of the *Alabama Review* agree that the demand for a new journal of this type is best met by its publication and that a long prefatory announcement is therefore unnecessary.

Our aims are simple. We wish the *Review* to be a medium of intelligent expression of life in Alabama and, insofar as it may reflect on Alabama, of life in the South, both past and present.

We shall devote our attention to the publication of articles and essays, original documents, critical notices, and news of historical interest. Within these limits we desire materials that bring to light new facts or reinterpretations of old ones, either of which in turn may make for a fuller understanding and, hence, a deeper appreciation of our cultural heritage. Because we believe other journals better suited to the purpose, however, we do not choose to print either fiction or poetry.

The *Review* is designed to support no ism, carry no torch and foster no cause other than, of course, the cause of accuracy, which for our purpose is synonymous with truth.

We invite from our readers not only contributions, but also comments and constructive criticism.

W. STANLEY HOOLE

Alabama as a Field of Historical Research

By WEYMOUTH T. JORDAN

THIS ESSAY IS PRIMARILY DESIGNED to attract attention to certain subjects within the broad field of Alabama history which seem at this time to need first or further study.¹ No attempt has been made to include an exhaustive bibliography of works already printed, nor is the paper to be regarded in any sense as a *critique* of those books and articles which have already appeared.² Many of the projects suggested here might well have been completed but have not as yet reached print, or they may now be undergoing thorough study. In any case, the list of subjects suggested should by no means be considered as final. Indeed, the chief objective of this adventure into historiography is simply to bring together a limited number of suggestive topics in the hope that they will quicken the study and recording of the history of Alabama. Such a paper will doubtless lead to differences of opinions. In spite of this, if the effort should bestir historians to further serious and scientific study, it will have served its purpose.

¹This paper has resulted from research on Alabama history conducted under Southern grants-in-aid (1940, 1941, 1947) received from the Social Science Research Council.

²Significant compilations listing materials on Alabama history are Thomas M. Owen, *A Bibliography of Alabama* (Washington, 1898); R. R. Bowker, *Alabama State Publications, 1818-1908* (New York, 1908); Caroline P. Engstfeld, *Bibliography of Alabama Authors* (Birmingham, 1923); and Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *A Check List of Alabama Imprints, 1807-1870* (University, 1946). See also Charles S. Davis, *The Cotton Kingdom in Alabama* (Montgomery, 1939) and Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *Early Alabama Publications, A Study in Literary Interests* (University, 1947).

A portion of the very early history of Alabama has been presented partially in such studies as John W. Monette, *History of the Discovery and Settlement of the Valley of the Mississippi* (New York, 1846) and Peter J. Hamilton, *Colonial Mobile* (Boston, 1897). Isaac J. Cox, Cecil Johnson and others in their studies on Florida, and Dunbar Rowland, Arthur P. Whitaker and Charles S. Sydnor, through their research on the Territory and State of Mississippi, have enlivened greatly the inquiry into early Alabama affairs. Thomas P. Abernethy and Clarence E. Carter have added to this valuable information on Alabama's Territorial period.³ Nineteenth century Alabama has been reminisced and memoired by such writers as Joseph G. Baldwin, A. B. Meek, Willis Brewer, William Garrett, Henry S. Foote, William Russell Smith, John W. DuBose, Albert James Pickett, and S. S. Scott. There has been much of the political but comparatively little from the economic and social approaches.

Religious life and activities of the state have been treated by Hosea Holcombe, Anson West, B. F. Riley, Walter C. Whitaker and Michael Kenny with what might be termed varying degrees of success. The subject has needed the excellent relief received from Walter B. Posey with his *The Development of Methodism in the Old Southwest* (Tuscaloosa, 1933) and his various articles in the *Journal of Southern History* and the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*. Minnie Clare Boyd and Rhoda Coleman Ellison have made distinctive contributions in the fields of social and literary history.⁴ Modern scholars, including Walter Lynwood Fleming, Theodore H. Jack, Clarence P. Denman, Lewy Dor-

³*The Formative Period in Alabama, 1815-1828* (Montgomery, 1922) and *The Territorial Papers of the United States*, (Washington, 1934-), IV, *Southwest Territory* (1936), V, *Mississippi* (1937), VI, *Mississippi* (1938), respectively.

⁴Minnie Clare Boyd, *Alabama in the Fifties; a Social History* (New York, 1931); Ellison, *Early Alabama Publications*.

man and James K. Greer, have turned once more to political history. A somewhat neglected study of political activities, however, has been John B. Clark, *Populism in Alabama* (Auburn, 1927). High school textbooks have been written by William Garrott Brown, L. D. Miller, John W. Beverly, Joel Campbell DuBose, and more recently by Marie Bankhead Owen. In narrative and biographical forms the state has been surveyed by Brant and Fuller, Thomas McAdory Owen, and Albert B. Moore. The last-named author, in his *History of Alabama* (University, 1934), has written what is generally considered the most adequate survey of the state's history.

After this rather cursory listing of Alabama's leading writers and books on history, the question is, what should be done to bring about a fuller understanding of the state's history? In the first place from whence did the early pioneers come to Alabama and what did they find upon arrival?⁵

Although Alabama was admitted to statehood more than a century ago, there is still need to study closely the question of the origins of its settlers. Such periodicals as the *Journal of Southern History*, *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* and *Agricultural History* contain many suggestive articles in this field of study. Particularly notable among them are Rodney Loehr, "Agricultural Frontiers in the United States: Moving back from the Atlantic Seaboard," in *Agricultural History*,⁶ and the following articles from the *Journal of Southern History*: Avery Craven, "The 'Turner Theories' and the South;" William O. Lynch, "The Westward Flow of Southern Colonists before 1861;" Frank L. Owsley, "The Pattern of Migration and Settlement on the

⁵For comparison see Albert B. Saye, "The Genesis of Georgia," *The Georgia Review*, I, 117-125 (Spring, 1947).

⁶XVII, 90-96 (April, 1943).

Southern Frontier;" and Herbert Weaver, "Foreigners in Ante-Bellum Towns of the Lower South."⁷

Moreover, when people left Alabama for other regions, where did they go?⁸ The subject is mentioned incidently in some of the general studies discussed above, but nowhere is there to be found a full account of this very important question. Now that unpublished census returns for the various states are accessible, it is possible to solve this mystery. Other random topics in regard to population are Indians and their activities (including removals), population growth, movements and shifts within the state, sizes of families, and studies concerning Jews and other minority groups.

The majority of Alabamians have been interested in agriculture throughout most of their state's history. Here, again, is a most fertile field of historical research, for the whole subject in relation to both Alabama and the United States has been virtually untapped; and such is the case despite the fact that over half of the nation's population in one way or another was engaged in agricultural pursuits as late as 1920. This point and many others concerning the significance of agricultural history have been succinctly discussed by Louis B. Schmidt in "The Agricultural Revolution in the United States, 1860-1930."⁹ Nowhere is there an adequate history of either Alabama's or the United States' agricultural development.¹⁰ Lewis Cecil Gray, in his monu-

7V, 291-314 (August, 1939); IX, 303-327 (August, 1943); XI, 147-176 (May, 1945); and XIII, 62-73 (February, 1947).

⁸See Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Natural Limits of Slavery Expansion," *Mississippi Valley Historical Review*, XVI, 151-171 (September, 1929); John D. Barnhardt, "Sources of Southern Migration into the Old Northwest," *ibid.*, XXII, 49-62 (June, 1935), and his "The Southern Element in the Leadership of the Old Northwest," *Journal of Southern History*, I, 186-197 (May, 1935).

⁹*Science*, LXXII, 585-594 (December 12, 1930).

¹⁰Everett E. Edwards' review of Robert W. Howard, *Two Billion Acre Farm: An Informal History of American Agriculture* (New York, 1945), in *Journal of Economic History*, VII, 105 (May, 1947).

mental two volume *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States* (Washington, 1933), and others, including Ulrich B. Phillips, Charles S. Davis and Fred A. Shannon, have worked in the field, but no one has ventured to write a full story of Alabama's activities. An account of farm production is also sadly lacking. Other agricultural research topics might well include scientific farming, agricultural societies and fairs, farm leaders, the agricultural press, cattle industry, the Black Belt during the Civil War and afterwards, agriculture since 1870, the size of land holdings, land speculation, the Extension Service and Experiment Farms, soil erosion and the conservation of natural resources, early and recent veterinary practices, farm pests and their eradication, fertilizers and their uses, the factorage system, the commission-merchant system, farm banks, the Granger Movement, the Farmers' Alliance and the Farmers' Union, Farm Bureau Federation, the country store, the development of rural trade centers, rural electrification, the dairy industry, naval stores, the lumber industry, and many more.

A study of slavery in Alabama with its many ramifications has not yet appeared. Ante-bellum yeoman farmers and grazers recently received attention from Frank L. Owsley in "The Economic Basis of Society in the Late Ante-Bellum South," in which he emphasized conditions in Alabama, and it is hoped that more of the same interesting type of information will be forthcoming from the same pen.¹¹ The "poor white" as such, before and after the Civil War, has not been adequately studied. Neither has a satisfactory account of the Free Negro or of manumission been printed. In view of the many modern approaches to the study of the Civil War and Reconstruction, as well as masses of newly discovered materials on the subjects, one is led to wish for

¹¹*Journal of Southern History*, VI, 24-25 (February, 1940).

a reappraisal of those periods.¹² The Freedmen's Bureau in Alabama, as well as throughout the South, deserves a full airing, and this is especially true since the numerous new materials on the subject have now been made available in the National Archives. The state convict system and convict lease system warrant closer study. The latter subject should perhaps be presented in somewhat the same manner as in two recent studies on Georgia.¹³ The settlement in Alabama during the last twenty-five years of farmers from foreign countries and the Midwest, transient farm laborers, and farm tenancy also offer attractive areas of research for the serious historian.

In the field of industrial history there has been a tendency to emphasize coal and iron and to overlook the many other available facets. Even so, adequate accounts of the industrial development of Birmingham and other cities and areas have not yet appeared in print. In the South and in Alabama, particularly, there has been a most active "industrial gospel" for at least a century. Even a hurried examination of such periodicals as *DeBow's Review*, *Niles' Register* and *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, for example, reveal many notices of the state's mining and industrial accomplishments and potentialities in the ante-bellum period. One stray fragment of information even leads to the suspicion that

¹²Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Changing Interpretation of the Civil War," *ibid.*, III, 3-27 (February, 1937); James G. Randall, "The Civil War Restudied," *ibid.*, VI, 439-457 (November, 1940); Albert B. Moore, "One Hundred Years of Reconstruction of the South," *ibid.*, IX, 153-180 (May, 1943); and T. Harry Williams, "An Analysis of Some Reconstruction Attitudes," *ibid.*, XII, 469-486 (November, 1946). See also "What Historians Have Said about the Causes of the Civil War," in *Theory and Practice in Historical Study*, Bulletin 54 (Social Science Research Council, New York, 1946), 52-102.

¹³A. Elizabeth Taylor, "The Origin and Development of the Convict Lease System in Georgia," *Georgia Historical Quarterly*, XXVI, 1-16 (June, 1942) and "The Abolition of the Convict Lease System in Georgia," *ibid.*, XXVI, 1-15 (September-December, 1942).

petroleum or possibly natural gas might have been available, but was perhaps unrecognized, in Alabama as early as 1841.¹⁴ The state's textile industry invites research, and the effects of two world wars on Alabama's economic history certainly warrant careful inquiry.

Detailed studies of internal improvements and transportation facilities, before or after 1860, have not been published. Blakely, Mobile, Huntsville, Montgomery and Dothan deserve intense research, as do most of the state's towns and cities, and the inquiries might well be modeled after Clanton W. Williams' recent article, "Early Ante-Bellum Montgomery: A Black-Belt Constituency."¹⁵ Investigations of the rise and decline of some of Alabama's old towns are also worthy projects. Studies of Indian trails, post roads, stage-coach lines, river traffic, wagon transportation, plank roads, transportation of the mail, railroads and highways would be welcomed. In this area Ulrich B. Phillips, Randle B. Truett, Robert S. Cotterill, Albert B. Moore, and Stanley J. Folmsbee furnish excellent leads. Moreover, two recent articles concerning Alabama railroads are examples of research still to be done on transportation history.¹⁶ Such subjects as panics, regulation of railroads and public utilities, women laborers, Negro laborers and unionism are also available for study.

Although much interest has been shown in Alabama politics and government, further research and writing needs to be done. Many presidential, congressional, senatorial, gubernatorial and local elections remain open for investigation, and this is particularly true of campaigns and elections dur-

¹⁴*Niles' Register*, LX, 384 (August 21, 1841).

¹⁵*Journal of Southern History*, VII, 495-525 (November, 1941).

¹⁶Grace Lewis Miller, "The Mobile and Ohio Railroad in Ante-bellum Times," *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, VII, 37-59 (Spring, 1945) and Allen J. Going, "The Establishment of the Alabama Railroad Commission," *Journal of Southern History*, XII, 366-385 (August, 1946).

ing the past seventy years. Various political parties, beginning with the Jeffersonian and progressing through the Jacksonian, Whig, Loco Foco, States' Rights, Know Nothing, Unionist, Republican, Democratic, Greenback and perhaps even the Socialist and Communist, are local subjects worthy of detailed study. The rise of the Black Belt and of urban areas to importance in state politics would serve as excellent projects for the historian. A political history of Alabama, 1842 to 1850, for example, when the Whigs and Democrats were involved in a fascinating struggle for control, has not yet appeared. The railroad issue in politics from 1880 to 1914 suggests several interesting possibilities for the researcher.

Movements of the state capital and construction of government buildings should be described.¹⁷ The growth and development of the Supreme Court and its leading jurists deserve inquiry, and further accounts of individual governors and their administrations are needed. Convention and primary election systems have not been examined adequately. Each of the state administrative agencies merits research. Constitutional conventions and their accomplishments, as well as comparisons of individual sections of the state constitutions from 1819 to 1901, afford interesting areas of study. In Alabama as elsewhere, the growth of democracy is an absorbing topic and deserves close and continued attention.¹⁸ Even a full study of the background of the personnel of the Montgomery Constitutional Convention, which established the Confederate States of America, awaits some enterprising and hardy student. Surveys of such subjects

¹⁷For expressions of out-of-state interest in the selection and establishment of Montgomery as the state capital, see *Niles' Register*, LXIX, 400 (February 21, 1846), LXXIII, 211 (December 4, 1847) and *DeBow's Review*, IV, 402 (November, 1847).

¹⁸An examination of democratic support received by Alabama politicians, 1831-1861, is now being conducted by Richard H. Bjurberg, a member of the Department of History, Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

as banking and branch banking, public lands, establishment and growth of county and city governments, the jury system, the justice of peace system, the penal code and taxation should be made and printed. Open also for consideration is the whole question of federal grants-in-aid to Alabama.

As in other states, Alabama's social history needs immediate attention. Details of the history of public school lands, the public school system, academies, seminaries, colleges, vocational education, teacher training education, physical education, the education of women, sports, the lyceum and chautauqua movements, legal and medical education, as well as accounts of early medical societies, county certification of physicians, and even the Medical Association of Alabama should be given historical consideration. Public health and public welfare merit additional research.

An account of the state's part in the "Great Revival" movement is not available, and scientific studies of most of the separate Alabama religious denominations have not yet appeared in print. The humanitarian crusade of the antebellum period, with its absorbing interest in such questions as care of the poor, the insane, the aged and orphans, and the rights of women, and the Negro and race questions, needs closer scrutiny. Other social reform movements invite research. Not the least of these is the Feminist Movement in Alabama during the past fifty years.

Alabama novelists, poets, scientists, musicians and artists of both the pre- and post-Civil War periods are for the most part virtually unknown. A history of Alabama literature is urgently needed. The origin of many place names has not been established. The world-famous Josiah C. Nott, to name but one individual, demands biographical treatment. The "gay nineties," studied perhaps with regard to

particular cities or as a whole in the state, is a historical project worthy of serious notice, as are fashions and dress during different eras. Studies involving the contributions of Alabamians to the Spanish-American War and the two world wars are urgently needed. Child delinquency, various youth societies, the Chamber of Commerce, fraternal and civic organizations, veteran agencies, and even such organizations as the Community Chest and Red Cross deserve serious local attention. In social history, as in all other approaches, biographical accounts by the dozens are needed by the student of history. Particularly useful would be analyses of the contributions of many individual leaders in Alabama, before and after 1860. Persons of local importance who should be rescued from oblivion must run into the hundreds. Waiting for the researcher, therefore, are many subjects, as well as numerous collections of materials, depositories and modern techniques of writing, all to be put to effective use.

A cursory examination of the state's major historical publications thus indicates the need for many additional studies. Despite the fact that Alabama has enjoyed a colorful and at times even a spectacular history, comparatively few of her activities have been adequately treated. Obviously, yoeman work and research has been done in numerous general studies but equally obvious is the fact that many projects have been neglected and that a fuller, more satisfactory knowledge of the state's past must now come when gaps, such as those suggested here, are filled.

Another noteworthy fact is that most of the research and writing done on Alabama has been concerned with the ante-bellum period. As a result, later events have been sadly neglected. This is not at all unusual, however, and is the case with other, older states, both North and South.

It is not likely that generations of respected scholars have been wrong in their approach to American history. But each day adds to history and it is logical to suppose that historians of the future will turn more and more to a study of the immediate past. At the same time, many historians believe that the pre-Civil War era still serves as a most important focal point; others believe that it has been over-worked. For the individual researcher the problem of choosing a subject on which he is willing to spend long hours may be settled only on the basis of his training and special interests, and, of course, on the availability of materials. Any well-planned, correctly written study, regardless of time or subject, however, so long as it contributes to truth or offers new interpretations of facts, will always be welcomed by the serious student of history.

The Shelby Iron Company In The Civil War: A Study of A Confederate Industry

By FRANK E. VANDIVER

CLIMATE, prevalence of agricultural pursuits, and mental attitude gave little impetus to industry in the Ante-bellum South.¹ Railroad transportation in the "Cotton States," essential to expansion of industrial economy, existed only nominally in 1840,² and since slaves were used for more menial work, labor did not contribute to the ready growth of manufacturing interests in the section. In addition to the individual slave's lack of mechanical aptitude there existed the "rugged individualism" of the average southerner which led to a somewhat militant aversion to shop work, especially in mills. A farmer, whose father before him had tilled the soil, could not have been cheered by the idea of spending hours in a sunless factory building, operating a machine. Tradition of this sort was difficult to change, yet the twenty years from 1840 to 1860 pointed to the inevitable truth which many southerners, especially the slave-holding class, hesitated to admit: their cotton economy was far from sufficient, especially if the South was destined to match its strength against the industrial areas of the North.

Not all of the people of the South, however, were unaware of the need for a more modern economy, based on manufac-

¹This paper was prepared under a grant-in-aid from the Rockefeller Foundation.

²Phillip Davidson, "Industrialism in the Ante-bellum South," *South Atlantic Quarterly*, XXVII, 405-425 (October, 1928). At this time there were only some four hundred miles of railroad track in the entire South.

tories. Proponents of agrarianism, powerful and numerous though they were, came in constant opposition to the few who held industrialism to be the true philosophy of the South; indeed, this minority, gaining in strength after 1840, found for itself great leaders, such as William Gregg of South Carolina, who put northern milling methods to profitable application in his famous Graniteville mills.

Other individuals and groups paid more than lip-service to the growth of manufacturing. Agreeing on the financial practicability of establishing various industrial enterprises in the South, these men petitioned their legislatures for many charters and articles of incorporation during the 1840's and 1850's. Although relatively few plans were ever carried out to completion, they serve as testimony for the growing industrial revolution in the South.³ It is perhaps true that, until the late 1850's, domestic industries had been supported to the virtual exclusion of other types. But the Kansas-Nebraska bill, the dissolution of Whig power, the collapse of conciliatory measures, and the growth of unrest over Federal relations, made wide industrialism a matter of serious sectional importance, and caused thinking men in the South to see the need for heavy factories below the Mason-Dixon line.

Should it become necessary for the South to fight the North, with what would it fight?

Steel mills were unknown, and large rolling mills, capable of casting cannon, existed only in Richmond, Virginia. The apparent lack of mineral resources in the region was misleading, however, and constituted no legitimate reason for the backwardness of the iron industry in the South. Although an ancient craft, iron-making had found no hospitable home in an area feverishly supplying the world's demand for cotton.

³The Alabama Legislature for example, incorporated five railroad, four steamship and two telegraph companies, along with miscellaneous corporations in 1858. See *Acts of the Sixth Biennial Session of the General Assembly of Alabama, 1857-1858* (Montgomery, 1858), pp. 105 ff.

Of the various men and groups of men actively interested in furthering the growth of the iron business in the South none deserves greater consideration than those able and industrious capitalists of Alabama, led by such men as Horace Ware, who, because of their faith in the monetary possibilities of iron in their ore-rich state, did much to aid the Southern Confederacy.

Ware, a native of Lynn, Massachusetts, inherited an interest in the iron industry from his father. After moving to Alabama, he purchased land in 1841 upon which he built an iron works and blast furnace, at Shelby, near the Cahaba coal fields and in a rich iron vein, completing them in 1846.⁴ Vast growth of the "Shelby Iron Company" did not mark the years from 1846 to 1858 but its reputation for quality steadily increased. In 1858, however, Ware, apparently convinced of the wisdom of expansion, took in some stockholders and obtained a legislative act of incorporation.⁵

The intentions of certain other Alabama industrialists cannot have escaped Ware's shrewd attention. John W. Lapsley, a militant industrial proponent and early Alabama railroad builder had, for instance, associated himself with two mining

⁴Ethel Armes, *The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama* (Birmingham, 1910), pp. 76-77.

⁵*Acts . . . Sixth . . . General Assembly of Alabama, 1857-1858*, pp. 136-138. "An Act to incorporate the Shelby County Iron Manufacturing Company" was approved February 4, 1858. It should be noted here that Lester J. Cappon has discussed some of the relations between the Shelby Iron Company and the Confederate States in "Government and Private Industry in the Southern Confederacy," *University of Virginia Studies, Humanistic Studies in Honor of John Calvin Metcalf* (Charlottesville, Va., 1941), I, 178-179. The present paper, therefore, needs some justification. Cappon's article, though excellent, does not attempt to cover the entire history of the Shelby Iron Company throughout the War period, and, due to its limited scope, does not consider many factors militating against the Company which colored its War administration. His conclusion that the Company proved essentially selfish and coldly businesslike bears some modification. In certain respects this is true, but on the other hand the Company had to fend for itself in the matter of vital working supplies and in this endeavor became more and more desperate. With these points in mind, it seems that a fairly close examination of Shelby's history during these years is not inappropriate.

concerns, the Shelby Coal Company and the Shelby Lime Company. The former had its mines, which were essential to Ware, in the Cahaba fields.⁶ As far as is known, however, Ware was not immediately pressed for additional sources of coal. He owned one charcoal blast furnace "of eight tons daily capacity, one rolling mill of ten tons daily capacity, a foundry, saw mill, and six thousand acres of timber and mineral lands."⁷ For the next three years, until 1862, he continued operations on this comparatively modest scale, but after the secession of the South and formation of the Confederacy, it became apparent to him that his plant and sources would have to be enlarged—a need which led him naturally to Lapsley and other men of means. Ware, with his experience and the advice of the leading iron authority in the South, James R. Anderson of the Tredega Iron Works,⁸ logically became head of the group which merged resources to produce Confederate iron.⁹ By the time the men destined to constitute the corporate body of the Shelby Iron Company first met, the plant proper was well acquainted with its obligations to the Confederate Government and, from the standpoint of physical property and manufacturing experience, the enterprise appeared to have every chance of becoming a successful operation.¹⁰

⁶*Acts . . . Sixth . . . General Assembly of Alabama*, 1857-1858, pp. 126, 129.

⁷Armes, *op. cit.*, p. 177.

⁸Anderson had, in 1859, advised Ware on the use of Negroes in rolling Mills. See Anderson to Ware, Richmond, Feb. 12, 1859, in Shelby Iron Company Papers, University of Alabama Library. Subsequent references to manuscript sources will refer to this collection, unless otherwise stated.

⁹See J. M. Tillman to A. T. Jones, Selma, Ala., Jan. 26, 1862. Ware had previously obtained the services of A. T. Jones as manager of the Company. Jones, in turn, had engaged J. M. Tillman, of Selma, as a sort of roaming commissary agent, to purchase food and secure slave labor. Just how valuable a choice he made will appear later.

¹⁰Capt. J. S. White to A. T. Jones, Selma, Aug. 9, 1861. Colin J. McRae, the Confederate Iron Agent at Selma, had control of issuing orders on the Shelby Company for various Confederate installations, and as it developed, the Company came to operate almost entirely on his mandate.

Ware decided on a fairly large number of stockholders, considering the size of his establishment. Numbers, of course, brought in additional capital; and for this apparent reason he sold, March 18, 1862, one-seventh interest in the works to each of six men: John W. Lapsley, John M. McClanahan, Henry H. Ware, John R. Kenan, Andrew T. Jones and James W. Lapsley.¹¹ At the same time they drew up "Articles of Agreement" and decided to conclude a contract with the Confederate Government for the manufacture of iron. The document which grew out of this decision required considerable study. Lapsley, for instance, at once took great interest in the contract stipulations on the manner of payment. The Confederacy, stated the contract, would pay one-third of its indebtedness in 8 per cent Confederate bonds and "the balance in 'current funds.' " Lapsley viewed this provision coldly. He wrote his fellow-stockholder, Henry Ware, that "we think it best to omit the latter words (" 'current funds' ") and let the matter stand as in contracts generally, as to all beyond the one-third which we agree to take in 8 per cent bonds; that is, say nothing about the kind of funds in which the balance shall be paid. As it now stands, we would be compelled to take the currency, though it might be greatly depreciated; whereas, if nothing is said on this point, we could take it or not as we pleased."¹² The ultimate purpose of Lapsley's planning was clear. The Company, he reasoned, should certainly be indemnified against the possible depreciation of Confederate currency. If this objectionable clause were removed, the Company would be able either to demand higher prices for its commodities or suspend government deliveries and sell on the open market. Lapsley's business acumen impressed his associates. They agreed that the method-of-payment clause should be deleted from the contract, thereby precipitating a lengthy,

¹¹See "Articles of Agreement," dated March 18, 1862, in Shelby Papers.

¹²John W. Lapsley to H. H. Ware, Shelby, Ala., March 20, 1862.

vitriolic correspondence with Colonel Colin J. McRae, Confederate Iron Agent at Selma, and Colonel Josiah Gorgas, the Confederate Chief of Ordnance.¹³

Meanwhile, the stockholders of the "Shelby County Iron Manufacturing Company," had assembled, April 10, 1862, to hold their first session, an organizational meeting. Andrew T. Jones was elected president, Thomas I. de Yampert, secretary, and John R. Kenan, superintendent.¹⁴ The pressure of war was already making itself felt. The battle of Shiloh had been fought only four days before and the beginnings of material shortages were being experienced. Lapsley and his partners, now convinced of the urgent necessity for expansion, on April 12 sent Jones to Montgomery to seek Governor John Gill Shorter's permission to obtain cylinders for the Shelby furnaces from Janny & Company of that city, exclusive state contractors. Lapsley told Shorter that he believed the work at Shelby was probably more important than any Janny & Company were engaged in, and thus secured the Governor's permission,¹⁵ but the Montgomery firm tarnished the good news by asking a price of \$1850 per cylinder, to be paid in hot blast iron delivered in Montgomery at \$50 per long ton.¹⁶ The Shelby Company viewed payment in iron with a somewhat jaundiced eye. The Confederate Congress at this time

¹³Cf. Gorgas to McRae, Richmond, May 14, 1862; McRae to H. H. Ware, Selma, June 24, 1862; McRae to A. T. Jones, Selma, June 24, 1862; (A. T. Jones) to McRae, Shelby, July 3, 1862; McRae to A. T. Jones, Selma, July 8, 1862; Jones to Gorgas, [Shelby], July 31, 1862; McRae to Jones, Selma, Aug. 5, 1862. Until this controversial instrument was drafted the company had enjoyed comparatively peaceful relations with the Confederate Government. It is probable that they were working under an agreement authorized by an early Act of Congress permitting the government to contract for the manufacture of ordnance. See "An Act to provide Munitions of War, and for other purposes," approved February 20, 1861, in *Statutes at Large of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America*. 1 Sess. Statute I, Chapter IV.

¹⁴Proceedings of first meeting of Shelby Iron Company, April 10, 1862.

¹⁵John W. Lapsley to Shorter, Selma, April 12, 1862.

¹⁶Janny & Co. to Jones, Montgomery, April 29, 1862.

had under consideration an act permitting government subsidy of manufactories of vital ores, iron and small arms. This law or laws, for two finally came to apply to Shelby, allowed a governmental financial advance of 50 per cent of the total erection costs of such factories and, in addition, permitted advances of one-third the value of contracts covering the purchase of coal and iron.¹⁷ These laws gave impetus to the Company's plans for growth, and Henry Ware was given the authority to negotiate with the Confederate authorities for a government loan. To facilitate the accomplishment of this desideratum, the Company voted him plenary powers, though charging him to restrict the loan to no more than \$75,000.¹⁸

While these plans were under consideration, various other government installations had been referred to the Shelby Company. For example, A. N. DeWitt & Company, Columbus, Mississippi, desperately needed a reliable source of iron which would enable them to sustain production of two hundred gun barrels a week.¹⁹ Only two weeks after the DeWitt summons, J. C. Butler, apparently holder of a Confederate contract, wrote Lapsley that he had been authorized to have 115 miles, or more, of telegraph wire made, adding that the machinery for pulling the wire could be made in Selma; all he wanted of Shelby was the round iron. Butler held power to impress it if the need arose, but Jones advised him that the Company would make the round iron only on order of Colonel C. J. McRae.²⁰

Urgent as these official calls were, Shelby had to refuse them. Meanwhile, Colonel Gorgas, through whom Shelby

¹⁷See "An Act to encourage the manufacture of Saltpetre and of Small Arms," in *Statutes at Large of the Confederate States of America*. . . 1 Cong., 1 Sess., Statute I, Chapter XXXIV; also "An Act supplementary to the Act entitled 'An Act to encourage the manufacture of Saltpetre and Small Arms,'" in *ibid.*, St. I, Chap. XLI.

¹⁸Proceedings of the Company's meeting, Selma, April 28, 1862. Members of the Company attending were H. H. Ware, A. T. Jones and John W. Lapsley.

¹⁹A. H. DeWitt & Co., to John Kenan, Columbus, April 30, 1862.

²⁰Butler to Lapsley, Selma, May 19, 1862; Jones to Butler, Shelby, June 1, 1862.

negotiated its Confederate contract, began to exert his power. He directed McRae "to see that the contract between the Shelby County (Alabama) Iron Manufacturing Company and the Government is duly executed, and to receive all deliveries made in pursuance [*sic*] of the same."²¹ As soon as McRae received this authority, he assumed control of outgoing orders, and the Company, operating on government accounts, was required to follow his priorities.²²

In addition to the problem of delivering iron, the Company faced the necessity of supplying slave and other laborers with food and clothing. Many obstacles stood in the way. Although Shelby authorities attacked this problem energetically, competition with Army quartermasters and commissaries made success questionable. In May, 1862, for instance, the Company had hope of getting some 200 pairs of workers' shoes from the State Penitentiary.²³ A month later, however, Jones was told that he could buy them (180 pairs) at \$3 each, from a factory near Wetumpka.²⁴ But by the time Jones' order reached its destination the situation had changed. Demand for shoes was so universal that a sale of this size impressed the seller as being unsafe. "I have concluded," he wrote, *for my own safety* to sell the shoes at auction and have therefore to decline sending the 3 cases. . ."²⁵ Jones, by now fairly desperate because of his present as well as future need for shoes,²⁶ renewed his efforts and, by June 20, 1862, had negotiated a purchase of 240 pairs.²⁷

²¹Gorgas to McRae, Richmond, May 14, 1862, Copy in Shelby Papers.

²²Jones to Butler, Shelby, June 1, 1862.

²³.....to D. S. Arnold, May 23, 1862.

²⁴Thomas Williams to A. T. Jones, Wetumpka, Ala., May 28, 1862; endorsement to above by A. T. Jones, June 7, 1862.

²⁵Thomas Williams to A. T. Jones, Wetumpka, Ala., June 9, 1862.

²⁶See for example an undated advertisement for 150 Negro laborers in the Shelby papers.

²⁷See Jones to Williams, Selma, June 20, 1862. There exists the interesting doubt whether Williams' whole scheme was one of speculation or not.

While Jones was earnestly pushing the shoe deal, J. M. Tillman, Shelby's field supply agent, had not been idle. His efforts to purchase mules for the Company had met with little success, however. People who had animals for sale wanted at least \$200 each, and Tillman keenly felt the bite of extortion. Someone had suggested that he might purchase mules in East Tennessee, but the extent of Confederate defection there caused him to observe that "to do so we would have to get Georgia or Alabama state currency which would be very hard to do."²⁸

Added to this uncertainty of supplies was the distressing policy of certain Confederate railroads. Because of overcrowding of rail facilities and the growing scarcity of rolling stock, important parts ordered by the Shelby authorities were frequently annoyingly delayed. Then, too, the railroads, constantly badgered by threatened government impressment of cars, came for a time to accept the necessity of priority for Confederate supplies.²⁹ The Atlanta and West Point Railroad, important to the Shelby Company, was, by May, 1862, committed to this priority system, refusing to ship anything other than strictly government goods. This decision greatly handicapped the iron works.³⁰

In the meantime government and state demands on the Shelby Company increased,³¹ and to make matters worse the

²⁸Tillman to Jones, Selma, June 17, 1862.

²⁹For an excellent account of the status of Confederate railroad transportation see Charles W. Ramsdell, "The Confederate Government and the Railroads," *The American Historical Review*, XXII, 794-810 (July, 1917).

³⁰J. R. Winship & Co. to Jones, Atlanta, May 30, 1862. This Company told Jones that the only way he could get certain parts ordered by Jones to Alabama was by express.

³¹See, for example, Daniel Wallis to Jones, Fayetteville, Ala., June 18, 1862, ordering 250 or 300 bars of barrel iron ten feet long, three and a quarter inches wide and three-eighths of an inch thick; McRae to Jones, Selma, June 23, 1862, ordering as soon as possible, 100 tons of pig iron for the ordnance department and also a quantity of hoop iron for canteens; and Col. T. G. Rhett to Gov. Shorter, Richmond, July 17, 1862, authorizing Shelby to make salt kettles.

Confederate government apparently "lost its temper." On June 24, 1862, McRae wrote H. H. Ware that Gorgas was dissatisfied with the Company's contract provisions. McRae added that he had given Jones "a letter from Colonel Gorgas criticisizing in mortifying, but not unjust terms the stipulation in the contract" concerning depreciation of Confederate currency:

This stipulation [he continued] reflects on the patriotism of the Company and I am quite sure their interest would eventually be promoted by rescinding it [depreciation clause]. I ask as a personal favor that you will take this matter in hand and see the stockholders individually and collectively and have this odious clause stricken out. Go on to the furnaces and see the letter of Colonel Gorgas, it is berrib (!)y caustic and the more so for being utterly just.³²

On the same day McRae wrote to Jones, enclosing Gorgas's "caustic" epistle and suggesting that, if the objectionable clause were not deleted from the contract, the government might be inclined to enforce the strictest compliance with the contract. He also pointed out the deletion of the clause would dispose the government to be liberal.³³

Jones, after considerable deliberation, wrote McRae in the Company's defense. Admitting the justice of Gorgas' objections "as a general rule," he went on to plead extenuating circumstances:

Circumstances well known to you, though not to him, which I think fairly render this case an exception. If the Gentlemen who compose this company were known to him, as they are to you, he would not, I feel sure, be in the slightest degree disturbed by the apprehension that under any circumstances, an unfair advantage would be taken of this provision, or that it would be in any way abused by the Company. McRae, Jones believed, knew of the honesty of the stockholders and would appreciate their being unable to adopt a "traitorous" course of action. Heavy cash outlays had been made by them to start a business in which they were neo-

³²McRae to Ware, Selma, June 24, 1862.

³³McRae to Jones, Selma, June 24, 1862.

phytes, and they were understandably worried over the uncertain marketable value of government securities as a consequence of military disasters, particularly the fall of Nashville. Jones knew McRae spoke in good faith when he said that the Confederacy could be relied on to be liberal in case of loss to the Company from some unforeseen contingency. On the other hand, Jones could not overlook the fact that there existed a provision in the Constitution prohibiting such relief, no matter how sincerely the government might wish to accord it.³⁴ Jones then confessed to McRae the actual reason for the inclusion of the indemnification clause. This requirement would not have been included, he declared, had not the government required an option for the payment of one-third of the contract price of iron in bonds. Jones then offered to omit the troublesome proviso, if the government would omit the bond stipulation.

With every confidence in the security and intrinsic value of the bonds, [Jones wrote] yet it is not probable that the company can afford to hold them long but may be required to in their operations to dispose of the larger portion if not the whole, it is manifest that they are more interested in the current market value of the bonds, than in their intrinsic or ultimate value. And in this view, it is the current value which must be regarded as standard.³⁵

Almost a week later McRae decided to forward Jones' letter to Gorgas, adding that he regarded it as a mistake. He told Jones, too, that the officers of the government were "men of first rate ability and will not fail to discover the falicy [*sic*] of your reasoning."³⁶

While the contract problem was being debated by the Com-

³⁴This provision appeared in Article I, section 9, paragraph 10 of the Confederate Constitution: "And Congress shall grant no extra compensation to any public contractor, officer, agent or servant, after such contract shall have been made or such service rendered." See *Statutes at Large . . . Provisional Government . . . Confederate States*. I Sess. p. 16.

³⁵Jones to McRae, Shelby Co., July 3, 1862.

³⁶McRae to Jones, Selma, July 8, 1862.

pany's stockholders, the business of making iron rolled steadily on. The government, now convinced of the necessity of fostering the maintenance and repair of the railroads without actually taking over their operation, decided to give preference to the manufacture of railroad iron. McRae so informed the Shelby authorities, urging the necessity of preparing to roll rails. He earnestly hoped the Company would undertake this business.³⁷ Almost simultaneously, Gorgas informed Governor Shorter that McRae had been instructed to direct the Shelby Iron Company "to deliver to Dickson Nelson & Company the balance of the iron contracted for by you on behalf of the State of Alabama."³⁸ Gorgas had also ordered McRae to fill Shorter's requisition on the Shelby Company in favor of F. G. Sturdivant, Talladega County, for enough iron to make two thousand rifles, and another in favor of Daniel Wallis for iron sufficient to make one thousand. The harrassed McRae, having no interest in the whims of state contractors, peevishly told Shorter that the sooner he received the Chief Executive's orders, the sooner they would be filled.³⁹

Soon, however, the Shelby Company found itself unable to handle this increased business with ease and finish. Actual facilities may have been adequate to the task, but without specialized personnel to operate the furnaces, tend to the puddling, mine coal and perform myraid other skill-demanding duties, the Company could not produce the quantity or quality of iron desired. Slave labor, adequate to menial, and a few of the skilled jobs about the plant, could be obtained

³⁷McRae to Jones, Selma, July 1, 1862. The government's solicitude over production of rail iron came to naught. As late as February 10, 1865, Lt. Col. F. W. Sims, Superintendent of Railroad Transportation, bemoaned the fact that not a "single bar" of railroad iron had been rolled in the Confederacy and that there seemed no chance that any would be made during the war. Ramsdell, *op. cit.*, XXII, 805 (July, 1917).

³⁸Gorgas to Shorter, Richmond, July 7, 1862.

³⁹McRae to Shorter, Selma, July 16, 1862.

with comparative ease, but skilled laborers either did not exist or were in the Army.⁴⁰

McRae, in response to the Company's plea for help, advised that the Company request details of skilled workers from the Secretary of War, through the Chief of Ordnance. He suggested the necessity for accuracy in describing the prospective details—names, division, brigade, regiment and company to which the desired workers belonged. He had no fear of Shelby's failing to obtain the necessary details.⁴¹ Jones, acting on McRae's advice, wrote Gorgas of the "great scarcity of efficient labor in the manufacture of iron. I find it next to impossible to supply the Shelby Iron Manufacturing Company with all required in their business outside the army and must beg to make application to the Secretary of War through you for the detail. . ."⁴²

While the Shelby officials were besieging the Ordnance Bureau for skilled laborers, Gorgas bade his time. At last his opportunity came. The Shelby Iron Company, in order to show its good faith and to cover a government advance of funds, had been required to deposit two security bonds of the Company, one for \$100,000 and the other \$50,000, with a Captain Wagner, military storekeeper in Montgomery. In return the Company received \$50,000 in treasury notes and a promise of the balance, \$25,000, in eight per cent Confederate bonds. Wagner had no bonds of this kind, however; but this

⁴⁰See "An Act to exempt certain persons from enrollment for service in the Armies of the Confederate States," *statutes at Large . . . Confederate States . . .*, 1 Cong., 1 Sess., St. I, Chap. LXIV; McRae to Jones, Selma, Aug. 4, 1862. Had the government been more far-sighted in the matter of details from the ranks, many Confederate industries would have been immeasurably more efficient. As it was, Shelby, as well as other manufacturies, had to scrape and dig for details. Though the conscript law provided for exemption of men working "iron mines, furnaces and foundries," it oftines proved hard to obtain details from the actual field forces of any skilled mechanics or other operatives.

⁴¹McRae to Jones, Selma, July 14, 1862.

⁴²Jones to Gorgas, Shelby, July 16, 1862.

fact apparently did not distress the Company, for Jones told the Chief of Ordnance that he would prefer treasury notes anyway, as Shelby needed cash at once. Gorgas, Jones believed, would direct Wagner to pay the balance in notes, but should he not feel free to do this, the Company wanted the \$50,000 security bond returned.⁴³

This maneuver played directly into Gorgas's hands. McRae had been correct when he told Jones that there were "men of first rate ability" occupying high places in Richmond. Gorgas, who was one of them, had directed the operations of the Ordnance Bureau with singular success and ability, and he would hardly be inclined to overlook a fairly obvious case of Company self-interest. Upon receiving Jones' letter, he saw his advantage and seized it at once. In obedience to military courtesy, however, he addressed his reply, not to Jones, but to McRae for transmittal. McRae then wrote the Company's harried president that, if the Company would annul the contract's objectionable feature, Gorgas would arrange the payment of the balance in treasury notes. After this *coup de main* little more appeared in the correspondence concerning the contract. It seems, however, that it remained unchanged, at least for a while.⁴⁴

Meanwhile, at no time had the Company managed to put itself in an easy running position. The Army's Commissary Department was not required to feed the operatives and laborers, and the Company, as has been stated, was forced into the open market to compete with Army purchasers. Tillman, still in the field, had learned that, in the opinion of large planters, corn would not rise above \$8 per bushel at crop gathering time. Since the government had bought up, during the first week of August, all the old corn available in Selma,⁴⁵

⁴³Jones to Gorgas, [Shelby] July 31, 1862.

⁴⁴McRae to Jones, Selma, Aug. 5, 1862; Jones to Gorgas, Richmond, Sept. 29, 1862.

⁴⁵Tillman to Jones, Selma, Aug. 5, 1862.

Tillman had to look to a new crop for Shelby's supply. Even so, Tillman, by diligent searching managed to procure a modest store ready for shipment to the Company, but that was as far as he could go. The government stepped in and impressed all rolling stock on railroads serving the Shelby country. Tillman, Jones and other probable consumers were stymied.⁴⁶

⁴⁶Tillman to Jones, Selma, Aug. 7, 1862. The railroad agents indefinitely promised Tillman cars as soon as the quartermaster department released them.

(To Be Continued)

Alabama's Shifting Cotton Belt

By J. ALLEN TOWER

COTTON, WHICH BECAME ALABAMA'S dominant crop in the early nineteenth century, is still the largest single source of income for the state's farmers. Consequently, changes affecting cotton culture and growth are of importance to all Alabamians and of particular significance to the one-third of the population who earn their living directly from the soil. One such change, of which little notice has yet been taken, is the shift in the location of the area in which cotton growing is the major activity.¹

The Early Period.—As early as 1808-1809 cotton was the cash crop in the St. Stephens area of the lower Tombigbee River (Washington County) and in the Huntsville area of the Tennessee Valley (Madison County).² Prior to 1830 settlement of the state was focused primarily in the wooded bottomlands of the Alabama-Tombigbee river system and in the Tennessee Valley, but in the 1830's the population overflowed into the Black Belt. Rapid development of the prairies of this region was aided by the introduction of an upland variety of cotton resistant to blight when grown on a limestone soil,³

¹Preparation of this paper has been made possible by a grant-in-aid from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and by a Rosenwald Fellowship.

²T. P. Abernethy, *The Formative Period in Alabama, 1815-1828* (Montgomery, 1922), pp. 10-11, 17.

³C. S. Davis, *The Cotton Kingdom in Alabama*, (Montgomery, 1939), pp. 19-38; L. C. Gray, *History of Agriculture in the Southern United States to 1860* (Washington, 1933), II, 890, 894-895. The Black Belt includes parts of twelve counties: Pickens, Sumter, Greene, Hale, Marengo, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Lowndes, Montgomery, Bullock and Macon.

and soon the Black Belt became noted as one of the most productive areas in the South. Although cotton production was begun in the Coosa Valley in the 1830's also, the productive plantation phase did not come until the 1850's, when water transportation upriver to the railroad at Rome, Georgia, was developed.⁴ This sudden rise of cotton as a major crop made Alabama the leading producing state in 1850. During the next decade, however, although output increased 75 per cent, Alabama was forced into second place by Mississippi, which became the leader.⁵

Cotton production was the motivating factor in the antebellum settlement of Alabama. Much depended on the adaptability of soils and on the transportation facilities available for shipping the commodity to market. Since fertilizers were then little used, the quality of the natural soil was of paramount importance, and since railroad development was essentially a work of the 1850's and later, water transportation exerted an incalculable influence on both settlement and cotton culture.⁶

Status in 1860.—The pattern in 1860 was clearcut.⁷ The cotton region (Figure 2) then consisted mainly of the Black Belt and the adjacent areas of the Upper Coastal Plain and the Lower Piedmont, with outliers in the Tennessee and Coosa valleys.⁸ The sandy pine-lands of the Lower Coastal Plain, requiring heavy fertilization for profitable cotton production, were considered areas of subsistence farming and open-range

⁴Gray, *op. cit.*, II, 890-891; Davis, *op. cit.*, p. 39. The Coosa Valley includes parts of six counties: Cherokee, Etowah, Calhoun, St. Clair, Talladega, and Shelby.

⁵Except where otherwise stated, all statistical information in this paper is from the Eighth (1860), Tenth (1880), and Thirteenth (1910) Censuses, and the 1945 Census of Agriculture, (Washington, v.d.).

⁶Davis, *op. cit.*, pp. 118, 128 ff.

⁷Cf. maps in Gray, *op. cit.*, II, 891; and in C. O. Paullin, *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States* (Washington, 1932), Plate 77.

⁸The Piedmont includes all or parts of nine countries: Cleburne, Clay, Randolph, Chambers, Tallapoosa, Coosa, Chilton, Elmore and Lee.

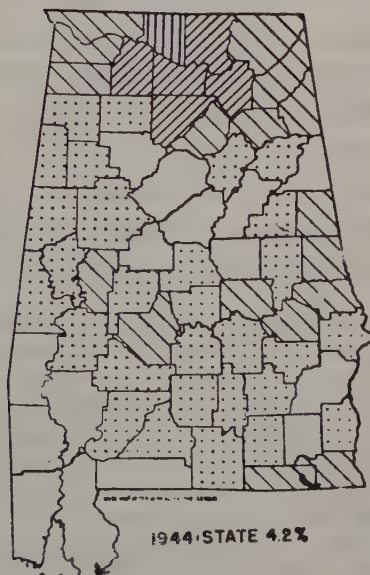
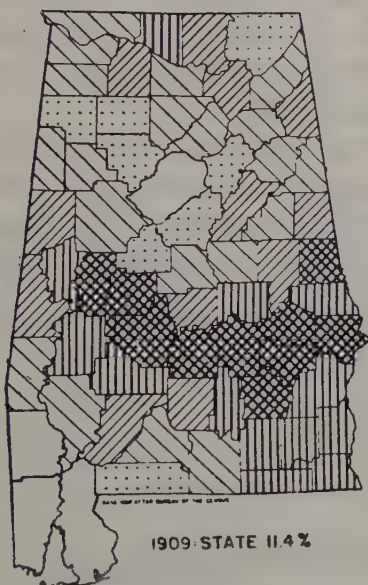
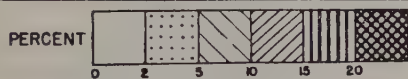
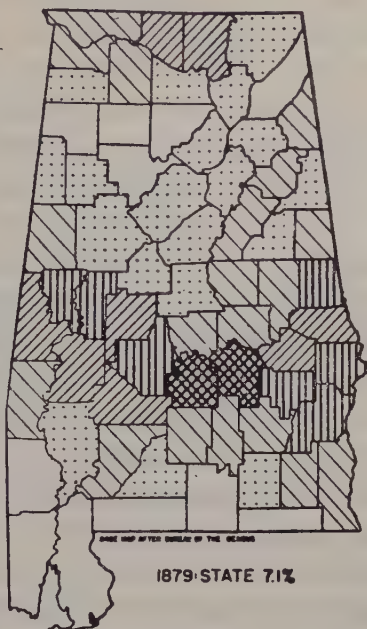
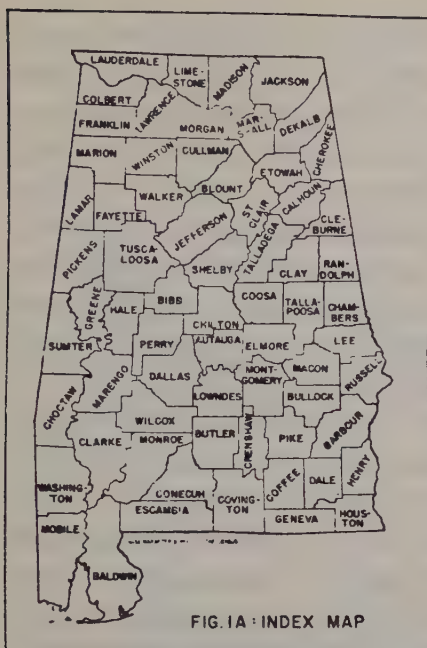


FIG. 1B: PERCENT OF TOTAL AREA PLANTED IN COTTON, BY COUNTY
SOURCE: CENSUS FOR 1880, 1910, 1945

livestock production, and the Wiregrass region of the Southeast was frequently called the "cow counties."⁹ The area lying between the Black Belt and the Tennessee Valley was also a zone of sandy soils and pioneer subsistence agriculture, and, except in the Coosa Valley, little cotton was grown even on the limestone valley lands, largely because of the lack of water or railroad transportation to market. Access to the Mobile market was down the Alabama and Tombigbee rivers, whereas the Tennessee Valley shipped the long way down the Tennessee and Mississippi to New Orleans.¹⁰

Status in 1879.—The Civil War and its aftermath brought economic disruption to Alabama, especially through the substitution of free for slave labor. This change was particularly severe in the cotton areas, where the ante-bellum plantations had been mainly slave-worked. Attempts to use wage labor were, in general, a failure. Thus did the sharecropper system emerge to link land and landless labor.¹¹ But this plan of subdividing plantations into temporary cropper tenant holdings led to a radical decrease in the size of the farm unit: for example, in Black Belt Montgomery County the average size decreased from 690 acres in 1860 to 91 in 1880. However, by 1880 readjustments had largely been made.

The location of the three well-defined areas of cotton production in 1879 are shown in Figures 1 B and 2.¹² About 60% of the crop came from the central cotton belt, a zone about 75 miles wide, the nucleus of which was the Black Belt. This

⁹The Wiregrass region as here designated includes eight counties: Crenshaw, Pike, Barbour, Henry, Dale, Coffee, Geneva and Houston.

¹⁰Cf. Gray, *op cit.*, II, 887-888, 893-895; Davis, *op. cit.*, pp. 1-45.

¹¹Oscar Zeichner, "The Transition from Slave to Free Agricultural Labor in the Southern States," *Agricultural History*, XIII, 22-32 (January, 1939); B. I. Wiley, "Salient Changes in Southern Agriculture Since the Civil War," *ibid*, XIII, 65-76 (April, 1939); F. A. Shannon, *The Farmer's Last Frontier: Agriculture, 1860-1897* (New York, 1945), pp. 76-100.

¹²Eugene A. Smith, "Report on the Cotton Production of Alabama," in *Tenth Census* (1880), VI, Part II, 60-65.

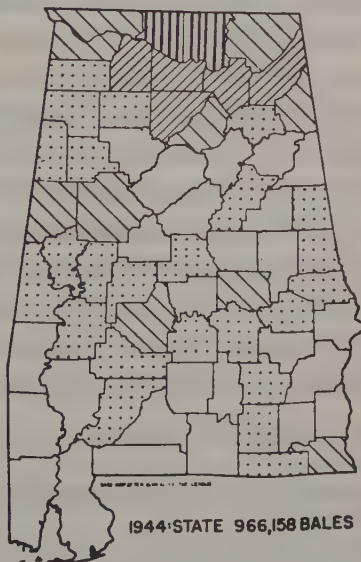
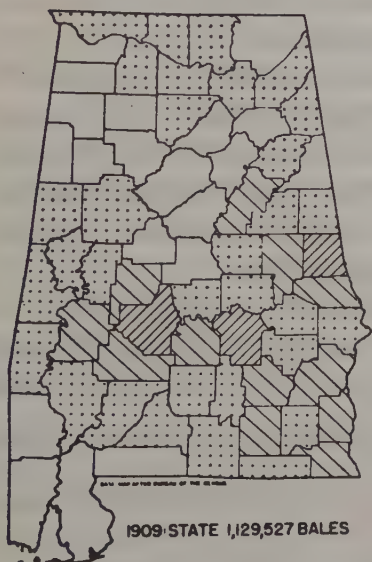
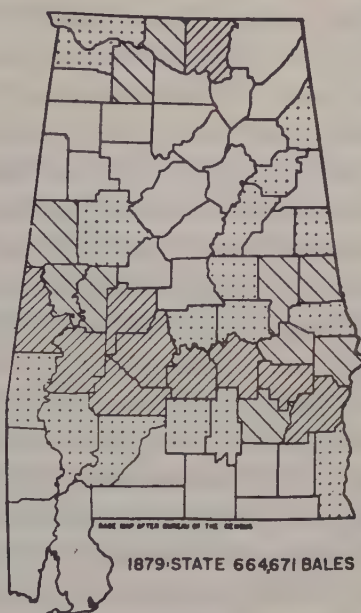
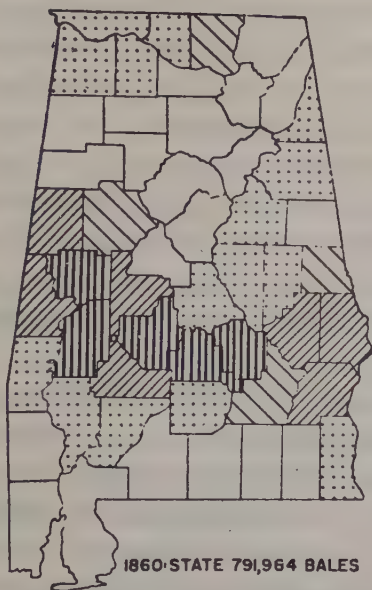


FIG. 2. PERCENT OF STATE COTTON CROP, BY COUNTY

SOURCE: CENSUS FOR 1880, 1910, 1945

area also included sections of the adjacent Lower Coastal Plain (from Sumter and Choctaw to Barbour), the Upper Coastal Plain (from Pickens to Lee), and the Lower Piedmont (in Tallapoosa and Chambers). In this zone over 10% of the land was in cotton, the maximum (23.7%) having been in Montgomery County. The belt extended into the poorer soil areas, indicating that the dominant cotton culture of the Black Belt and the available water transportation of the Tombigbee, Alabama and Chattahoochee rivers, in part at least, had more influence on production of cotton than did the character of the soil.

The second cotton belt was in the Tennessee Valley, centering in Madison and Limestone counties, but including parts of six others.¹³ Here 12% of the state's crop was raised, the peak concentration having been in Madison County which had 14.1% of its area in cotton. The third region was in the Coosa Valley, where about 8% of the state's output came from the lowland parts of six counties. Talladega County, with 7.3% of its land devoted to cotton, led this zone.

Nearly four-fifths of Alabama's crop came from these three zones; the other fifth was widely scattered. The smallest amount was grown in the southwestern section of the state and in the Sand Mountain region.¹⁴ However, with the beginning of the use of commercial fertilizers in the 1870's and with railroad development providing an outlet to markets,¹⁵ production in these scattered areas began to expand.

Status in 1909.—By 1910 Alabama had nearly reached its maximum acreage and production of cotton.¹⁶ The 1909 crop (Figures 1 B and 2) was grown on 11.4% of the total land

¹³These counties were Lauderdale, Colbert, Lawrence, Morgan, Marshall and Jackson.

¹⁴Counties included were DeKalb, Blount, Cullman, Winston, Walker and a part of Etowah.

¹⁵Smith, *op. cit.*, pp. 64-65.

¹⁶The maximum acreage came in 1911, maximum production in 1914.

area of the state, as compared with 7.06% in 1879. It was a major crop in all except twelve counties. In these, located chiefly in the Mobile and Birmingham districts, the commodity covered less than 5% of available soil.

At this time maximum concentration was still in the central belt where ten counties devoted over 20% of their area to cotton. Montgomery County still led, but whereas 23.7% of its land had been planted in cotton in 1879, in 1909 it planted 30.6%. Cotton acreage had increased somewhat in all these counties, except for a 168 acre decrease in Sumter. Although this belt was still the major producer, its production was now less than half the state's total. The change was not the result of a real decline, however, for all counties increased their output, except Pickens, Greene and Sumter in the west and Lowndes and Bullock in the east. Rather, the change resulted from expansion elsewhere, since the state's cotton acreage had increased 60% and the output 69%.

During the thirty year period, 1879-1909, two areas in Alabama more than doubled their cotton acreage and production: the southern tier of counties from Henry and Houston to Washington and Mobile, and a northern tier from DeKalb to Franklin and Lamar. Specific increases in the Southwest were minor, and in the Clarke-Covington area moderate. The outstanding change was in the Wiregrass section, which had become the second most important cotton area in the state. In each of these eight counties over 15% of the land was planted in cotton (in Pike 22.5%,) while regional production increased from 10 to 16% of Alabama's crop. Acreage more than doubled in each county except Barbour, which showed a slight decrease, and production more than doubled in each except Pike and Barbour, where the increases were more moderate. The northern area, in spite of its rapid expansion, was as yet a minor producer.

The Tennessee Valley region, which in 1879 had produced

12% of the state's crop, decreased to but 9%. As in the central cotton belt, the decrease was the result of faster expansion elsewhere; cotton acreage had increased in each county, and save for a minor decrease in Madison, output had also increased. This region had the third highest concentration of cotton acreage, centering in Limestone, Madison, Marshall and Lawrence. The Coosa Valley likewise declined from its former 8 to 5% of the crop, although acreage and output increased in each county.

These major shifts in cotton areas and the over-all state increase in acreage and production were facilitated primarily by two factors.¹⁷ First of these was the development of railroad transportation, which opened up new areas in Alabama and made it feasible for regions not accessible to water transportation to become commercial producers. The second factor was the use of commercial fertilizers. Peruvian guano became available in the South in the 1840's, superphosphates in the 1850's, and nitrate of soda in the 1880's. After the Civil War their use expanded. Then, old fields had to be worked because of the shortage of labor necessary to clear new ground and because the cash crop (cotton) had to be planted in order to secure credit. Both factors resulted in greater demands on the partially exhausted soils. Commercial fertilizers permitted the profitable growing of cotton on formerly cultivated soils and on poor soils in new areas.¹⁸ Although use of fertilizers began before 1880, Alabama was slow to adopt them. It is estimated that in 1876 only 10 to 15% of the cultivated acreage was thus fertilized.¹⁹ Writing in 1882, Eugene Smith stated:

¹⁷This statement ignores, of course, the factors of credit, market and competitive crops.

¹⁸R. H. Taylor, "The Sale and Application of Commercial Fertilizers in the South Atlantic to 1900," *Agricultural History*, XXI, 46-52 (Jan., 1947).

¹⁹Shannon, *op. cit.*, p. 113; see also Chapter I for a discussion of the scarcity of information on soils.

It may be said, in general terms, that in the great cotton producing areas in Alabama the use of commercial fertilizers in cotton planting is comparatively unknown. In the regions of moderate production the system of returns to the soil is more generally practiced, and the use of commercial fertilizers is gradually extending from east to west, being at its best, however, even in these regions, far short of the universal practice. In the regions of very small production these fertilizers are also very seldom in use. . . .²⁰

But by 1909 the use of commercial fertilizers, fostered by the agricultural experts, had become a widespread practice, and their use permitted profitable cotton cultivation on the poorer sandy soils of the coastal plain and of the hill country.²¹

Status in 1944—The thirty-five years between 1909 and 1944 saw much modification of Alabama's cotton pattern. The boll weevil, two world wars, a depression, and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program of cotton restriction resulted in radical changes. State cotton acreage decreased nearly two-thirds, but improved per-acre yields resulted in an output decrease of only 14.4%. Major locational shifts necessarily occurred (Figures 1 B and 2).

No longer is the old central cotton belt Alabama's leading cotton producing area. Once producing 60% of the state's yield, it now produces a little over 20%, and that primarily from the non-prairie soils on the fringes of the Black Belt. Decreases in cotton acreage range from a third in Elmore to over four-fifths in Montgomery, so that now almost all these counties plant less than 5% of their area in cotton. Macon, with 7.3%, rates highest; but Dallas, the largest county in the region, is the largest producer (2.7% of Alabama's crop). During World War II (1939-1944) most of the Black Belt counties showed a slight increase in output (not in acreage), ap-

²⁰*Op. cit.*, p. 65.

²¹Cf. J. F. Duggar: *Southern Field Crops* (New York, 1911), Chapter XIX; W. M. Kollmorgen: *The German Settlement in Cullman County, Alabama* (Washington, 1941), pp. 4-6.

parently the result of increased fertilization. A major reason for this decline in cotton has been the boll weevil. The arrival of this pest in Alabama in 1912 was so disastrous to the farmer that the crop in 1917 was the smallest since 1874. By the 1920's, however, control measures had been so well worked out that, in 1925, the weevil destroyed less than 5% of the entire crop. Since that date losses have varied yearly from about 3% in 1926 to over 20% in 1932.²² The two chief methods of combatting the boll weevil have been the use of insecticides and the planting of early-maturing varieties of cotton. Because the heavy prairie soils of the Black Belt make early planting unfeasible,²³ that region, led by Montgomery County, which in 1944 got 57% of its farm income from livestock and livestock products and only 22% from cotton, has been shifting to livestock. In the rest of the Black Belt cotton still provides two to three-fifths of the farm income and livestock and products, a fifth to a third. Although this regional change-over is still in process, the "cow counties" of Alabama once in the Wiregrass region, are now in the Black Belt.

The Wiregrass region, second cotton area of the state in 1909 (with 16% of the total crop), now produces only half that much. Acreage decreases of one to two-thirds occurred in each county, the smallest being in Houston, which still has 8% of its area in cotton, and the greatest in Dale, which devotes only 1.8% to cotton. Production decreased more than half in each county except Geneva and Houston. In this region readjustments brought about by the boll weevil and other hazards have resulted in the peanut's becoming the dominant source of farm income. It provides from 30% of the total in Geneva to 51% in Henry, and cotton, the once-leading crop, provides only 12 to 30%. Livestock provides 7 to 15%.

²² B. F. Alvord, M. A. Crosby & E. G. Schiffman, *Factors Influencing Alabama Agriculture*, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin No. 250 (Auburn, 1941), pp. 14-15, 43. ²³ *Ibid.*, p. 73.

The Tennessee Valley region, which dropped from second to third place in 1909 (only 9% of the total crop), is now the chief cotton belt, producing over one-fourth of the state's output. Limestone, with 17.4% of its area in cotton, has the highest concentration in the state, but ranks second to its larger neighbor, Madison, in output. These two counties are the only ones in Alabama producing over 5% of the cotton crop. During the period, 1909-1944, every county more than doubled its production, except Lauderdale, where the increase was only 85%. Acreage changes, however, were more complex. Up to 1939 one-half the counties showed slight increases and the other slight decreases, but during the War all, except Limestone and Jackson, cut their acreage slightly. In this Tennessee Valley region cotton now provides nearly three-fourths of the farm income, ranging from 50.5% in Jackson to 81.5 in Lawrence.

The Sand Mountain region to the south, which was a rapidly expanding but still minor producer in 1909, now ranks as the third cotton area of the state. It provides more than 15% of the total crop. Cullman, devoting 10.1% of its area to cotton, is the third largest producer in the state, and DeKalb, with 8.9% in cotton ranks fifth. Between 1909-1944 production increased in all parts of the region, but during World War II there was a slight decrease in Blount and Etowah. Pre-War acreage increases were evident in Cullman, Blount and DeKalb, but during the War only DeKalb continued to increase its cotton acreage. This area gets almost half of its farm income from cotton, a seventh from fruits, vegetables and potatoes, and an eighth from livestock and products.

Since the decline in Coosa Valley cotton production has continued, the area is no longer a major zone. In the Piedmont region both cotton acreage and production suffered a major decrease in each of the six counties; however, Chambers and Randolph still have over 5% of their area in cotton, and

the region produces about 5% of the state's crop. The farmers in both the Coosa Valley and Piedmont regions, however, today find cotton their chief source of income.

Conclusions.—It is apparent that Alabama's cotton belt has shifted its location over the years. North Alabama now leads Central and South Alabama. Will this situation remain where it is today, or will the center of production continue to shift?

Shifts so far have been brought about by the impact of biological, economic and technological changes. The shift from river-bottom areas to the Black Belt was aided by the introduction of a variety of cotton resistant to blight when grown on a limestone soil. Cotton decline in the Black Belt resulted mainly from the ravages of the boll weevil which must be combatted by growing early-maturing varieties, a type not suited to the prairie soils whose wetness delays spring planting. The development of railroad transportation and commercial fertilizers made cotton cultivation profitable on the sandy soils of the Wiregrass, but here also ravages of the boll weevil fostered the development of alternative crops, so that the peanut now dominates the region. Railroads and fertilizers also contributed to the expansion in North Alabama.

Currently, two major developments in technology forecast further shifts in the cotton belt: the development of a successful mechanical cotton picker and of the flame weeder, invented by Colonel Price McLemore of Waugh, Alabama. These inventions and other new equipment, plus everchanging farm practices, permit cotton culture in suitable areas to change from a hand-labor crop to a completely mechanized crop. As such, the requirements of the machinery itself seem likely to cause further shifts to large farms in areas of flat to gently rolling land.²⁴ In all probability, the 1955 agricultural census will show further shifts in Alabama's cotton belt.

²⁴J. A. Tower, "Alabama Cotton and its Future," *Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science*, XVIII, 35-39 (April, 1947).

Historical Societies in Alabama

By ALLEN J. GOING

DURING THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS several different historical societies have been created in Alabama. Some of them were begun for specific purposes such as the establishment of memorials or the marking of historic sites, but almost all have been devoted primarily to the preservation and publication of local historical materials.¹ A few of these organizations are still active, others remain dormant, and a number have ceased to exist.

The first, and until recently, the only state-wide historical organization was the Alabama Historical Society, founded in Tuscaloosa in 1850.² President Basil Manly of the University of Alabama assumed a leading role in its creation. In January, 1850, he read to the University faculty a letter from Chancellor Alexander Bowie, a trustee of the University, suggesting the formation of a society, and a week later delivered an address which he himself prepared, inviting "individual gentlemen of distinction or literary taste" to meet with him at the University's annual commencement in July.³

¹Lists of these societies can be found in *Report of the Alabama History Commission* (Montgomery, 1901), pp. 18-19; Alabama Department of Archives and History *Monthly Bulletin*, I, 45 (May, 1925); and Christopher Crittenden (ed.), *Historical Societies in the United States and Canada* (Washington, 1944), p. 12.

²For brief accounts of the founding see Mitchell B. Garrett, "An Account of the Preservation of History in Alabama," *North Carolina Historical Review*, V, 3-6 (January, 1928); and Peter Brannon, "First Annual Meeting of the Alabama Historical Society," *Montgomery Advertiser*, May 16, 1937.

³"Minutes of the Proceedings of the Faculty of the University of Alabama 1841-1854" (Manuscript volume in the University of Alabama Library), p. 186; Thomas

Manly's efforts resulted in the formal establishment of the Alabama Historical Society at a meeting held in the Rotunda on the University campus, July 8, 1850. The constitution, an elaborate document of twelve pages, stated: "The object of the Society is to discover, procure, preserve and diffuse whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary and ecclesiastical history of the State of Alabama, and of the States in connection with her." Membership dues were set at \$5 per year, and the following officers were elected: Alexander Bowie, president; Albert J. Pickett, first vice-president; E. D. King, second vice-president; Washington Moody, treasurer; and Joshua H. Foster, secretary.⁴ In 1852 the society was incorporated by the Alabama legislature.⁵ Albert James Pickett, Alabama's famous early historian, in discussing the scarcity of material on Alabama history, wrote, that he "rejoiced" to know that "a Historical Society has recently been formed at Tuscaloosa by some literary gentlemen, and it gives me pleasure to reflect that the authors who may appear after my day, will not be subjected to the labor which it has been my lot to undergo."⁶

The constitution of the Society provided that annual meetings should be held in Tuscaloosa during the University commencement. The first of these assembled July 14, 1851. The executive committee reported a total of sixty-four members, and the group heard an address by President Bowie, as well as two papers, "Statistics of Tuscaloosa," by Washington Moody, and "A Memoir on the Cotton Plant," by Isaac

M. Owen, "Dr. Basil Manly, the Founder of the Alabama Historical Society," *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society* (Tuscaloosa and Montgomery, 1898-1906) [hereinafter cited as *Transactions*], IV, 125-130.

⁴*Constitution of the Alabama Historical Society* (Tuscaloosa, 1850).

⁵*Acts of the Third Biennial Session of the General Assembly of Alabama* (1851-1852), p. 288.

⁶Quoted by Mitchell B. Garrett in his article, "Preservation of Alabama History," *loc. cit.*, p. 4.

Croom.⁷ After that year meetings were held annually throughout the 1850's, but the only other extant published account of proceedings is that for the year 1855.⁸ Although the Society seems to have been financially sound,⁹ Manly became concerned over the lack of interest shown in it and apparently lost touch with the organization shortly before he resigned the University presidency in 1855.¹⁰ The last annual meeting before the Civil War was held in 1859, but no papers were read and no important business transacted. James M. Van Hoose, secretary after 1854, later recalled that much of the Society's collection, especially its newspapers, were destroyed when Confederate troops used his Tuscaloosa law office as a barracks in 1862.¹¹

During the Civil War and Reconstruction the Society remained dormant, but in 1874 Joshua H. Foster, first secretary of the Society and at that time professor of philosophy and astronomy at the University, led a movement for its revival. Assuming the role of a student, he wrote for the *Alabama University Monthly* an article urging re-establishment of the Society, adding that a number of the original documents of the body were still preserved and on file in the University library.¹² Foster's plan bore fruit; on June 30, 1874, the Society

⁷*Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society . . . July 14, 1851* (Tuscaloosa, 1852).

⁸The society published an address by N. L. Whitfield delivered at the annual meeting in 1858. Thomas McAdory Owen, "A Bibliography of Alabama," *Annual Report of the American Historical Association for 1897* (Washington, 1898), pp. 1244-1245.

⁹It had a treasury balance of \$364.60 in 1855. *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society . . . July 9th & 10th* (Tuscaloosa, 1855), p. 2.

¹⁰See extracts from Manly's letters in Owen, "Dr. Basil Manly," *loc. cit.*, pp. 130-139.

¹¹"The Alabama Historical Society—Reminiscences of Fifty Years," *Transactions*, IV, 119-121. Since no manuscript administrative records for the Society before 1895 have been found, these reminiscences are valuable sources of information.

¹²"The Alabama Historical Society." *Alabama University Monthly*, I, 63-66 (March, 1874); "Reminiscences," *Transactions*, IV, 111.

was reorganized, and two years later a newspaper referred to it as "now thoroughly revived."¹³

When Foster became president in 1878, the Society immediately began to show signs of increasing activity. At the annual meeting of that year it was decided to hold monthly meetings, to reduce the annual dues, and to open membership to the general public.¹⁴ The Society also sent out a number of circulars and handbills, announcing meetings and urging the necessity of preserving all matter relating to the history of Alabama.¹⁵ Tuscaloosa members attended these monthly meetings, held in the city hall or private homes, and read papers which they themselves had prepared or heard papers sent in by others.¹⁶

Encouraged by this turn of events, in 1879 the Society began to publish a monthly bulletin, the *Alabama Historical Reporter*. The first volume contained ten issues, October, 1879—July, 1880, was edited by the two secretaries of the Society, Walter Guild and John Snow, and sold for twenty-five cents per year. The early bulletins merely reported the proceedings of the monthly meetings, but those in the second volume, which began in 1884, contained a number of abstracts of papers and articles covering various phases of Alabama history. The last issue of the *Reporter* appeared in July, 1885.¹⁷ After that year the Society showed little signs of activity, and the only records now available are the manuscript minutes of two annual meetings, 1894 and 1895.¹⁸

¹³Tuskaloosa *Times* quoted in *Mobile Register*, July 27, 1874; Tuskaloosa *Gazette* quoted in *Greensboro Alabama Beacon*, June 24, 1876.

¹⁴*Montgomery Advertiser*, December 21, 1878, February 1, 1880.

¹⁵See copies of these circulars in the State Department of Archives and History.

¹⁶"Reminiscences," *Transactions*, IV, 116.

¹⁷Incomplete files of the *Reporter* can be found in the State Department of Archives and History, the University of Alabama Library, and the Birmingham Public Library.

¹⁸On file in the State Department of Archives and History.

During this second period in the life of the Society the only publications, besides the *Reporter*, were two annual addresses: *Tuscaloosa: the Origin of its Name, its History, etc.* (1876) by Thomas Maxwell, and *The Importance and Growth of Genealogical Work in the South* (1895) by James O. Prude.¹⁹ The state press meanwhile noticed with favor the activities of the Society and approved its plan to request from the legislature an appropriation for a fire-proof building in which to preserve books, pamphlets, and relics.²⁰ One newspaper, however, pointed out that interest in the Society was "not commensurate with the importance and great objects of the work."²¹ The *Historical Reporter* also complained that the people took little interest in preserving Alabama's history, and Editor Snow later recalled that he personally paid the five dollar monthly printing bill because subscriptions never came in.²²

The year 1898 ushered in a most active period in the life of the Alabama Historical Society. This revival of the organization can be credited almost exclusively to the work of one man, Thomas McAdory Owen.²³

The 1898 annual meeting was presided over by Professor William Stokes Wyman of the University of Alabama, with Owen, who at that time was practicing law in Carrollton, as

¹⁹Owen, "Bibliography," *loc. cit.*, p. 1248.

²⁰Montgomery *Advertiser*, December 14, 1883, May 6, June 23, 1885.

²¹Tuscaloosa *Clarion*, June 27, 1882.

²²*Alabama Historical Reporter*, III, 8 (June, 1885); "Reminiscences," *Transactions*, IV, 123.

²³Owen was born in 1866 in Jefferson County, educated at the University of Alabama where he received the A.B. and L.L.B. degrees, and practiced law in Bessemer, Carrollton, and Birmingham. He held a number of political offices and while in Washington with the post office department worked in the Library of Congress preparing his excellent bibliography of Alabama which appeared in 1898. In addition to his work in Alabama history, Owen assumed an active role in the American Historical Association and helped to found the Mississippi Valley Historical Society. He died in 1920. Thomas M. Owen, *History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography* (Chicago, 1921), IV, 1310-1311.

acting secretary. Wyman mentioned the lack of interest in the Society during the recent years and stated that no definite program had been prepared for the meeting. Owen, however, had previously taken the liberty of securing several papers on significant historical topics, and from these he read selections to the assembled members. He also made a strong plea for renewed interest in the organization and introduced a series of resolutions designed to vest in the secretary responsibility for enrolling members, publishing papers and proceedings, and generally managing affairs for the group. Officers were chosen as follows: Governor Joseph Forney Johnston, president; William Leroy Broun, Martin Luther Stansel, Edward L. Russell, Thomas Chalmers McCorvey, and Peter J. Hamilton, vice-presidents; and Thomas M. Owen, secretary-treasurer.²⁴

During the next few years the Society made notable progress. In 1899 the secretary reported a total of 346 members and a treasury balance of \$116.²⁵ Further encouragement came from the state legislature which appropriated \$500 to be used over a two-year period to publish the Society's proceedings and papers.²⁶ At the 1899 session Owen reported on the progress of the Alabama History Commission, a group which the legislature had authorized to survey the status of Alabama archives and to recommend the best method of collecting, organizing, and preserving these records.²⁷

A significant event occurred at the semi-centennial meet-

²⁴*Transactions*, II, 7, 11-13.

²⁵*Ibid.*, III, 17, 22.

²⁶*General Laws of the General Assembly of Alabama* (1898-1899), p. 65. With this money supplemented by money from the treasury of the Society, Owen succeeded in publishing four volumes entitled *Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society*. These contain papers and proceedings from 1898 through 1905. Volume I of this series, intended to include all records of the society previous to 1898, was never published because only a few of the records for that period were found.

²⁷*Transactions*, III, 13-16, 20; *General Laws of the General Assembly of Alabama* (1898-1899), p. 20.

ing, June 18, 1900. The Society unanimously adopted Owen's resolution to remove its headquarters from Tuscaloosa to Birmingham, since Owen was transferring his law practice to that city. Several Tuscaloosa members keenly regretted this decision and, in an effort to counteract it, passed a resolution memorializing the University trustees to co-operate with the legislature in establishing a permanent depository for state historical materials at the University of Alabama. Frank S. Moody, who proposed the resolution, felt that such a step would secure the permanency of the Society's headquarters at Tuscaloosa, the seat of the University, where it had been for fifty years.²⁸

Before the next annual meeting of the Society, however, the legislature established the State Department of Archives and History, a plan recommended by the History Commission. The Department was located in the capitol at Montgomery and Owen was selected as the first director.²⁹ Hence, the Society once again changed its headquarters and in the 1901 meeting passed the following resolution:

That all collections heretofore made by the Society, or which may in future come into its possession. . . , shall be turned over to the Department of Archives and History for safe preservation; and that in future no effort shall be directed to the collection of books or other historical objects.³⁰

The Society held three more annual meetings, all in Montgomery, but it became increasingly apparent that the work of the Archives Department was supplanting that of the So-

²⁸*Transactions*, IV, 34-37.

²⁹*Acts of the General Assembly of Alabama* (1900-1901), p. 1197. The History Commission felt that the Archives Department should absorb the collections of the Society but that the Society should continue in existence for the purpose of studying, discussing, and publishing historical material. *Report of the Alabama History Commission* (Montgomery, 1901), p. 37.

³⁰*Transactions*, IV, 248-249. In the same meeting Moody reported that no action had been taken by the University trustees in response to the memorial from his committee.

ciety. In fact, Owen reported annually that his energies and attention had been devoted to the work of the Department.³¹ As a result, although the Society did not formally disband, no annual meetings were held after 1905. At that time the secretary reported: "The absence of specific work has resulted in a condition of apathy. . . . Our most valuable activity for the future must be as an agency or medium for the publication of materials."³²

In correspondence throughout the year 1905 Owen continued to refer to the Society as extant. His plans for a quarterly journal, however, never materialized, and he had extreme difficulty in collecting sufficient dues to defray the expenses of the four volumes of transactions.³³ From that time until the present the State Department of Archives and History has borne the chief responsibility of preserving records and creating interest in Alabama history. Under Owen's direction until his death in 1920, and afterwards under the leadership of his wife, Marie Bankhead Owen, the Department has continued to publish numerous studies of Alabama history and to collect and preserve historical materials.

A number of local historical societies have flourished since 1900, and Owen actively encouraged the formation and work of some of these. The Alabama Baptist Historical Society and the Conecuh County Historical Society had been organized by Benjamin Franklin Riley in 1893 and 1879, respectively, but became inactive after the completion of that writer's two histories: *History of Conecuh County, Ala.* (1881), and *History of the Baptists of Alabama* (1895). The Cumberland Presbyterian Historical Society, founded in 1893, and the Alabama Conference Historical Society (Methodist) were or-

³¹*Ibid.*, IV, 401, 579

³²*Ibid.*, V, 18.

³³This correspondence is on file in the Alabama Historical Society papers in the State Department of Archives and History.

ganized to gather materials for church histories.³⁴ The first local society resulting directly from Owen's work was the Old St. Stephens Historical Society, organized in 1899 to study and preserve the history of that region and to manage the Spanish Evacuation Centennial of that year. It continued to function for a number of years and was listed as reorganized in 1922, but no records exist to indicate that it continued beyond that date.³⁵

Two other local societies arose at the turn of the century. The Iberville Historical Society was founded in Mobile Sept. 4, 1901, by Peter Hamilton, Erwin Craighead, Frederick G. Bromberg, and others, for the purpose of celebrating the Mobile Centennial. The organization continued to function actively for a number of years, using the YMCA as the depository for its collections.³⁶ In more recent years its activities have been revived by the Mobile Historical Society. Active work in that area is also being carried on by the Historic Mobile Preservation Society.³⁷ The second of these organizations was the Tennessee Valley Historical Society, founded in September, 1902, in Huntsville. Under the direction of Owen, William Richardson, and others, this society issued a few circulars and held annual meetings for an undetermined number of years.³⁸ Another organization with the same

³⁴*Report of the Alabama History Commission* (1901), pp. 18-19. The collections of the Methodist society are on file in the State Department of Archives and History. An Alabama Baptist Historical Society has enjoyed a nominal existence since 1902. Statement of James F. Sulzby, Jr., Birmingham, November 14, 1947.

³⁵*Transactions*, III, 20; *ibid.*, IV, 39, 251, 402, 581; *Archives and History Bulletin*, I, 45 (May, 1925).

³⁶Erwin Craighead, "The Iberville Historical Society of Mobile," *Alabama Historical Quarterly*, I, 131-137 (Spring, 1930); *Gulf States Historical Magazine*, I, 153-154, 273-276 (September, 1902, and January, 1903). The manuscript minutes of meetings held every two or three months through December, 1909, are on file in the State Department of Archives and History.

³⁷Statement of Peter Brannon, Military Archivist of the State Department of Archives and History, November 6, 1947.

³⁸*Gulf States Historical Magazine*, I, 58, 226-227 (July, November, 1902); *Trans-*

name was founded in November, 1923, but its activities seem to have been limited to Colbert, Lauderdale, Lawrence, and Franklin counties. This group remained active as late as 1930.³⁹ Owen also played an important part in establishing the *Gulf States Historical Magazine*, the first volume of which he edited along with Joel C. DuBose. Although this periodical was not connected with any historical organization, it made noteworthy contributions in the publication of historical news and set a high standard for studies dealing with the Gulf states.⁴⁰

In the 1920's a number of county societies were formed. One in Russell County and one in Baldwin County, both formed in 1923, still maintain organizations. The Moundville Historical Society, also organized in 1923, and the Old Cahaba Memorial Association (1925) gave their attention to marking and preserving two of Alabama's most famous historic spots. The former was ultimately absorbed by the Hale County Historical Society which at the present time is one of the most active in the state.⁴¹ In recent years the Birmingham Historical Society has been quite active. Founded in December, 1942, under sponsorship of the Birmingham Public Library, it has done considerable work in collecting material and disseminating information on the history of Birmingham and Jones Valley.⁴²

It would be impossible even to mention all organizations

actions, IV, 580. Clippings and manuscript minutes on file in the State Department of Archives and History.

³⁹Archives and History *Bulletin*, I, 45 (May, 1925); clippings in Tutwiler Collection, Birmingham Public Library.

⁴⁰Only two volumes of the magazine were ever issued, Vol. I (July, 1902-May, 1903) and Vol. II (June, 1903-May 1904).

⁴¹See numerous clippings covering the period 1931 through 1946 in the Tutwiler Collection, Birmingham Public Library; statements of Peter Brannon, Montgomery, November 6, 1947.

⁴²Birmingham *News*, December 31, 1942. See also bulletins, circulars, and clippings in the Tutwiler Collection, Birmingham Public Library.

or groups which, although not strictly historical in nature, have made noteworthy contributions in preserving the history of the state. Typical of these are the various patriotic societies, such as the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and United Daughters of the Confederacy, all of which have done much to stimulate interest in our military history and traditions. Two other groups have been especially active in publishing material concerning Alabama history: The Alabama Anthropological Society, founded in 1909, which published during the years 1920 through 1937 a monthly magazine concerning Indian life and related topics called *Arrow Points*,⁴³ and the Alabama Committee of the Newcomen Society of England, which has published a number of pamphlets dealing with various phases of the state's history.

Thus, during the past one hundred years historical organizations have in varying degrees been interested in preserving and recording Alabama history. The most recent, the Alabama Historical Association, was founded at a meeting in Montevallo, April 19, 1947.⁴⁴ This group was not organized as a revival of the old historical Society nor does it intend to duplicate the work of the Archives and History Department. It is, however, the first functioning state-wide historical organization since 1905, and it carries on the traditions of the other societies in encouraging interest in and publicizing the state's history. In Alabama, with its rich and colorful history, there exist many opportunities for continuing and expanding historical research, discussion, and publication. In stimulating these activities, historical organizations, both state and local, can play an important part.

⁴³Vols. I-XXII (July, 1920-May 10, 1937).

⁴⁴On this organization meeting, see *Birmingham News*, April 31, 1947; Alabama Historical Association *Monthly Bulletin*, I (June, 1947).

Notes and Documents

ADVICE TO AN OVERSEER: EXTRACTS FROM THE
1840-1842 PLANTATION JOURNAL OF JOHN HORRY DENT

Edited by W. STANLEY HOOLE

John Horry Dent of Barbour County, author of the following letters of advice and instruction to his plantation overseer, was for thirty years, 1836-1866, one of the most affluent and progressive land-owners in ante-bellum Southeastern Alabama.¹ Obviously a firm believer in method and system, during this time (and after) he kept a series of journals in which he meticulously recorded practically every detail of farm life—day-by-day reports on the weather, the cost of postage to Charleston, the prices of brandy, saddle-bags, ploughs, shovels, shoes, cotton, lumber, repairs of wagon wheels, the amounts of cotton, potatoes, corn and other crops grown, complete reports on the activities of his slaves and their children, instructions for ditching, ginning, planting, and many other details of life on the plantation.² Several entries reflect his interest in the improvement of agriculture regionally. One of these,

¹Dent was born August 15, 1815, the son of Commodore John Herbert Dent, United States Navy, who, as a young lieutenant served on the *Constitution* during the bombardment of Tripoli, and Anne Horry Dent, member of a distinguished French Huguenot family of Colleton District, South Carolina. On December 30, 1835, he married Mary Elizabeth Morrison, daughter of Robert and Mary H. Morrison, and early in 1836, encouraged by glowing reports of the fertility of the new cotton lands in eastern Alabama, sold "Savannah," their Carolina rice plantation, and moved with their slaves and other possessions to Barbour County. See Maximilian Bethune Wellborn, "John Horry Dent," pp. 1-2. Undated mss. in the University of Alabama Library.

²Unfortunately, only one of Dent's journals kept during the 1836-1866 period has been preserved—"Plantation Book B," covering the years 1840-1842. However, another volume, "Farm Journal, April 1st, 1882-March, 1884," describing the activi-

for example, dated May, 1841, and addressed to the "Chairman of the Agricultural Society of Barbour County," is a lengthy discussion of the urgent need for the establishment of a monthly magazine "for the Promotion and Advancing [*sic*] Experiments and knowledge on Farming & Husbandry."³ Another, written to Bertram J. Hoole in August, 1840, directs the attention of the members of the "Agricultural Society of Irwinton" to the subject of Topping Cotton in the Month of August."⁴ The journals, Dent wrote, are "intended not only to ascertain the Actual Expenditures and Income of my Estate, But to guide my future Course in Business and farming. By reference and Experience, By referring to dates, Crops &c I can see whether I am backward or advanced."⁵

Dent owned at different times two plantations. The first of these, "Good Hope," purchased in 1836, upon his arrival in Alabama from Colleton District, South Carolina, contained 680 acres and was situated twenty-four miles from Irwinton (now Eufaula) and ten miles from Clayton, on Cowikee Creek in Barbour County. On October 15, 1841, because "the Lands on this place were not enough for [his] force, or to farm on Judiciously and no more Lands adjoining could be had at fair rates," he traded "Good Hope" for "True Blue," a 1080-acre plantation six miles downstream on Cowikee Creek, paying Wiley Oliver, its owner, \$15 an acre, or \$6000, to boot.⁶ Eight years later, dissatisfied with the exchange, Dent sold "True Blue" to John McNab, repurchased "Good Hope," moved back, and gradually bought up adjoining lands until he again held 1000 acres.⁷ In 1866, his 120 slaves hav-

ties on his post-bellum Georgia farm has also been saved. Both of these were presented to the University of Alabama Library in April, 1945, by Dent's grandson, Maximilian Bethune Wellborn, for many years the well-known president of the Bank of Anniston, Alabama, and afterwards Governor of the Sixth District Federal Reserve Bank, Atlanta, Georgia.

³"Plantation Book B," pp. 111-113.

⁴*Ibid.*, pp. 48-50. See also pp. 122-125, 128, 142-143. ⁵*Ibid.*, fly-leaf.

⁶*Ibid.*, pp. 157, 161, 256. ⁷*Ibid.*, p. 176, and Wellborn, *op. cit.* p. 4.

ing been set free, he sold "Good Hope" and purchased a 400-acre farm known as "Refugee Cottage" in Floyd County, near Cave Spring, Georgia, for \$12,000. There he continued to live and work until his death in May, 1892.⁸

Early in his career as an Alabama planter Dent apparently had difficulty in securing and keeping a competent and efficient overseer. In 1840 he engaged Samuel C. Watkins at an annual wage of \$250, but Watkins' services were not satisfactory and on January 5, 1841, he was discharged. John Oliver was next employed, but, "on account of his wages not being sufficient for the business he undertook," he remained only two days. Five days later, on January 17, 1841, John Brown, an unexperienced overseer, was signed up for a period of twelve months "at \$180 standing wages," with the understanding that he would receive \$200, provided one hundred or more bales of cotton were made. By September, 1841, however, Brown had been replaced by one D. McIntyre, who agreed to assume the responsibility for \$25 a month. Slightly more than a year later, on October 11, 1842, he too was released and on the following November 14 John Brown was re-employed "as Overseer from this date to the 1st of January, 1844."⁹

Having no doubt experienced difficulty with overseers prior to 1840, Dent, upon hiring Samuel C. Watkins, carefully outlined for him his duties and responsibilities. These unique explanations, written in what may be termed a fatherly but firm tone, fairly well cover the myriad activities of farm life. The first, dated September 10, 1840, and entitled "To My Overseer in Managing a Farm," takes up, among other subjects, the treatment of Negro slaves, horses, lots, cribs, planting and crop-making.¹⁰ The second, written a month later discusses in detail "the Management of Stock."¹¹

⁸*Ibid.*, p. 8. ⁹"Plantation Book B," pp. 69-70, 206, 215.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, pp. 50-52, 55-56. ¹¹*Ibid.*, pp. 59-62.

Several months later, on March 13, 1841, Watkins having been replaced by the untried John Brown, Dent wrote a long "Letter to A Young Overseer, Unexperienced," again outlining the absolute need for "System, discipline and requisite rigour" in all duties, the proper management of slaves, the care of stock, the preparation of land and, last but not least, the necessity for pursuing "steadily" the business of overseeing "with Pride, energy, perserverance and a determination to obey the orders" of his employer.¹²

Together, these three letters, recorded below, form a noteworthy commentary on the opinions and attitudes of a well-to-do planter towards life and labor in ante-bellum Alabama.

TO MY OVERSEER IN MANAGING A FARM

Dear Sir. In undertaking my business or the duties of an overseer, I conceive you undertake a business in itself Important, Responsible, Arduous, and one that must require your whole time and attention so long as you Remain my Overseer. And I trust it is only with such feelings and determinations you embark in the business. For to carry on a Farm or Plantation properly, there must be strong and mutual confidence, existing between the Employer and Overseer to carry on business properly, successfully and to an advantage to the former. Such are my unalterable opinions and hope your occupation is not new to you, if so I will enumerate to you under separate heads your duty and necessary duties to carry on a plantation with System. System is the only Method to manage a plantation well. Washington remarked, "a bad System is better than none". First let us make a few Remarks on the management and discipline of the Negroes. I conceive this to be the most arduous task of all. As by them and through them all is to be done, they may be termed the main Spring of the farm, and when that is defective the rest must go wrong. In the first place, they should be set a fine Example of Sobriety, Industry, a proper knowledge of Business Economy and constant watchfulness on the part of the Overseer in endeavouring to detect any crime, negligence or disobedience of Orders or anything that may lead to con-

¹²*Ibid.*, pp. 17-21.

fusion or derangement of business on the plantation. By so doing it is a visable check on them, They are Segacious themselves, watchful and Cunning, and like a good Sailor "knows what his commander is" in a few hours. Well, as soon as they conceive what your disposition is & your qualities are, as a good manager and they believe your System, will be put in rigid operation, half the battle is over. Now and then only, some rascal will stray from the path of duty, more for the purpose of Testing your disposition and System, than from any other Motive. Never let them know you trust them in doing any thing. If other business on the farm should call your attention (for your duty is to be with them constantly while at work—) on your return the work done in your absence should be overlooked and rigidly examined, and if there be any error or Idleness discovered, correction with the whip is your proper alternative. Any offence behind your back should cause severer punishment than if committed in your presence. In refering to other duties. we can advert to the Management of Negroes as the case may be. I conceive the Management of the Horse Lot urges strong claims to faithfulness and Economy on your part. In the first place bear in mind it is by the Aid of the Noble and Segacious animal that our most arduous, as well as Lucrative Interest is performed, and by Your negligence in trusting to Negroes (who possess by little humanity and feeling) to attend to the wants and comforts of the fatigued and hard worked animal, many of them fail, Starve or Suffer, merely for that kind treatment, which he has so justly earned by the Labour you have exacted and received of him. His wants are like the daily Labourer, Enough to Eat and Drink, and his body and limbs cleansed of the Sweat & dirt which is accumulated in his task, and a comfortable place to refresh himself, so as he can undergo, with life and ease, what is required of him the next day. Unless you see such treatment given him, and should be under your own Eyes, it is cruel, and breaking down the constitution of all Horses fast, consequently more are to be purchased, to be worn down and killed up in their prime, merely from wanton negligence on your part. Also another important step is to see them regularly allowance in Corn & fodder, for regular feeding, altho small, fattens, and is more conducive to health and good appetite, than a great abundance irregularly given. Great attention should be paid to regular Salting, and a change of food, and to the Horses appetite, as when that is failing, something

is wrong—either overworked, or some disease accumulated. Again your Horses should be put up perfectly clean and dry—So if one should be rode or used by a Negroe at night contrary to orders, it can be detected. Another very important step, is, on your part, to provide good Collars and Geer, and see them well fitted to the animal, and each Horse or Mule work constantly with his own, So as to prevent gauls, and risings—and if there should be any, when you possess good and well fit geer, you may know it arises from the Negligence of his driver, which should be corrected by you, with punishment to Boy. The Geer when off the Horse, should be hung up in some safe and dry place, and never permitted to be in The dirt or Sand, as it preserves it much longer, and clean Geer works more comfortable and easy. All such is not to be performed thro your orders, but by constant & personal attention on your part. Another very important duty to be performed, and connected with the Management of the Lot, is Making and saveing the Manure, pens should be made, and the litter and contents of the Stables and Lots, and the waste shuck cobs and everything that will make manure, after haveing been well trod should be put away in their proper pens—to be carried in the fields when needed. I cannot impress on your mind too Strongly, the necessity of your Strict attention to the foregoing remarks, and especially the last.

The cribs are in part connected with the management of the Lots, and it will be well to make some allusions to them here. No matter how abundant our cribs may be supplied with corn, and other provisions, Economy should be observed, for many obvious reasons. In the first place waste is not only sinful, but cause a wasteful and prodigal habit among the negroes, and also a Temptation to plunder and sell, if there be a Market, and again a surplus saved, by judicious Economy, is in the first place prudent, for, perhaps the comeing season may be such, as to shorten or ruin a crop, consequently the surplus saved is so many dollars, and trouble saved and already on the spot for use. On the other hand if a heavy crop be made, the surplus can be disposed of, in order to assist in defraying the plantation expences. To carry this proper discipline into effect, it must be again done under your own eyes and orders, the cribs well locked, and the key never used but by yourself or Employer. When you trust a negroe with the keys, your discipline, and just accounts, are done, for you cannot vouch for what has been done behind your back, and altho the negroe you trust

may be honest himself, he may be careless—or would not inform on a fellow Servants misdemeanor, for two reasons, the first is, he would betray his negligence, and trust, you confided in him, the Second is he would bear the Ill will, and censure of all the negroes. Consequently if you violate your duty—they are innocent in a part for their negligence and misdemeanors. I conceive all the mismanagement & confusions on farms, in a great measure proceeds from careless and Indolent Overseers. A Ship with a careless Pilot at the helm, may soon terminate in disorder and danger, if not Shipwreck. The same discipline, and personal attention on your part, must be observed to all other kinds of Stock on or belonging to the plantation. Treatment according to the wants and nature of the animals, must be given as needed in common or in part—Cattle, Hogs, Sheep & Goats should all have their respective pens and attention as the nature of the animal requires, kept Gentle, and in Good order. The raising of Hogs and Sheep in particular, deserves great exertions on your part, for food and clothing. A well disciplined farm here where nature has done so much for, Should purchase only their Iron Coffee and Salt, the rest of the consumption should be made thereon.

As Regards planting, and making the crops. Experience is your best guide. If you have not had experience an your Employer a good and practical farmer, constant consultation and advice you must depend on—but at the same time, you should soon endeavor to be a Good Judge of work, and what a hand and hands are able to perform well in any given time, for unless you possess that knowledge, you will loose much time and Labour, when you think you are doing a good business. Also your work should be well Inspected daily, and what has been done, let it be well done as half work is merely a loss of time. I am no advocate for over planting to the hands. I deem fifteen acres to the hand an ample crop. More can be made from the quantity of Ground than Twenty acres for the 20 acre business is merely run over, half tended, consequently your ground cannot yield as well by one third, as crops that are kept clean of grass weeks and properly worked when needed. The Twenty acre system in my opinion is hard on hands, Injurious to Lands, and a loss in the crops at the end. Two acres of corn, cotton or any other product, properly prepared, planted and managed will yield more than four acres planted the manner in which they farm in this Country. Your fencing always must be strong,

and well built, and your attention in time is requisite to all things going to decay. A stitch in time saves many. I will continue this at some other convenient time.

Sept. 10th, 1840

[Signed] JNO H. DENT.

ON THE MANAGEMENT OF STOCK

Dear Sir. I again address you on a subject of utmost importance, and for the purpose of giving my views more Largely. As in my Letter of General remarks of the 10th Sept. I merely hinted on the plans of managing stock, without any particular remarks on management of the same separately as the nature of the animals may require. In the first place let us advert to the Management of Cows, Calves, and Steers. I am an advocate for a small stock in a country like this where the Range is inferior for where Ranges are not good, Cattle dwindle away to be but a shadow of what they really are, when they receive that necessary care which their value and usefulness entitle them to. If your Stock is not of a good and thrifty kind, endeavour immediately to dispose of the most inferior for beef or Sale to the Butcher, and then procure a Good Bull, that will make a good cross and raise his get, with care and good attention, while young allow them a sufficiency of milk from their mother, and when they become able procure a pasture that will keep them fat, in order to push them forward when young in Strength and Size. I am opposed to range Bulls, as in General they are inferior from neglect, and starvation and the Blood may be too nearly connected with the stock he ranges with. Keep your Bull at home in a pasture, Gentle, well fed, salted, and frequently handled and turn your cows to him, in no Instance turn him out, as he may be Injured by others, made cross & stubborn, and imbibe a disposition to some, and when wanted not to be found. He should be provided for in winter with a good Shelter, his rack and manger therein, and well fed, his health attended to, so as when spring Season arrives, he should be in readiness to supply as many cows as is required, the Bull being fat, fine life and Spirits, and in appearance a noble looking animal. As I have made allusions to the Bull, which is the main stay, for a good stock, Let us attend now to the next important object, which is Good Cows. I deem fifteen Cows of a good breed, an ample sufficiency for a plantation consisting of fifty or sixty

human beings, provided and Cows are of good quality, and attended to, as I shall now remark. In a new country like this, where we have no pastures, to pasture our cows in daily, we must in a great degree depend on the range for their green food or grazeing. But still, when brot to the pen at night for Milk (which by the by—there pens should be ampley Large, so as to prevent their heming each other while disposed to hook, or fight, and good salt troughs provided, as well as mush tubs, and racks to hold shucks or other forage, and also pens for the calves with necessary equipments for food &c). Each cow should have its food properly prepared in its Tub, altho it be but a small bate, as in Summer grazeing is ample with the small bate, consisting of waste Turnips, Turnip Tops, pea Hulls, Bran &c boilt togeather, Tends to gentle the animal as well as enrich the Milk, and causes their regular return home to their pen in expectation of their Evening repast. They should be regularly salted and occasionally Sulphur mixed with the salt, which causes the ticks they get in the woods to leave them. The above remarks answer for their treatment during the grass season.

But in winter your treatment must be more attentive and rigid. The pens in Your Crib Lots should be well supplied with shucks, Pea Hulls and such damaged fodder as is unfit for Horses, and every day during the Winter your Cows, Calves and dry cattle should be regularly fed therefrom. And with a little peas in the Hull, pea Hams and shucks chopped up and well boilt togeather your milch cows will not be found wanting in the pail. The Calves while milked must have the use of a pasture, so as to allow them such chances for growth & size as heretofore alluded to. The next and most important object is the proper management of Hogs, which constitutes in part the food for ourselves and negroes, and which should be had in plenty. Like unto the stock of Cattle, the Most important and first step, is in procuring a Good Boar, and treating him with great attention and kindness. A new Boar should be procured every four years, unless the change is made in the sows, and eaven when his get have been selected for breed, it is then necessary for a change of Boar. the next of Note are the sows, that should be selected from the two finest pigs of every litter, and raised well and gentle, and great attention should be paid to their make and form in Your selections. If the boar should be round and heavy built, Sows of Large and long shape should be se-

lected, as a cross of such kinds would produce pigs of a medium size and more thrifty and hardy in constitution. The same rule should be applied if the Boar was Large and Long Select Heavy Sows. The next thing that suggests itself to our mind is how is this to be accomplished. The answer must at once present itself. Perseverance care and regular Management. Pens should be made and had to suit the different classes of Hogs. Sows and pigs should be kept separate, so as to prevent their pigs from being mashed or Injured, Sows not pigged alone, and your range Hogs or those intended for meat, also to themselves, and shoats to themselves, in order to prevent the Larger from eating from the Younger. Hogs by nature are rood and crabid, consequently they must be so classed in pens, in order they may be matched in size and strength. Feed them at a regular hour every day, and the most appropriate time is at sun set, make each class go to its regular pens, feed them, and fasten them for the night and at day light turn them out. By this System they become regular in comeing to quarters every evening they rest well at night undisturbed, and are fresh and ready for seeking food in their range when turned out of mornings.

The next of Note is Sheep, the same care must be observed as in all kinds of Stock, in the Selection of a Good Ram. They should also have their pens, and made to stay therein of Nights—fed and regularly Salted, Always, be particular in haveing Green Lots for the Lambs & Ewes when needed. Sheep are an animal that require some attention, for from their timid dispositions, if not Gentled they become wild, and hard to manage. I have ennumerated to you the Management of Such stock as I possess, and I deem it very important that you should observe such rules and regulations I have mentioned. Such discipline is Irxsome at first—but so soon as the animls are made to know they receive food and Kindness at the regular times of comeing up, they will soon become as regular, as their Heardsman. Only persevere at the beginning and the result will soon be very evitable in the looks and actions of the animal.

[Oct., 1840]

Yrs.—JNO H. DENT

LETTER TO A YOUNG OVERSEER, UNEXPERIENCED

To

Jno Brown, As by your acknowledgement to me you have selected

JANUARY, 1948

the occupation of an overseer as your future choice for a livelihood, until circumstances may cause a change in your business, I shall take this method of giving to you some admonitory hints, which may experience and as your employer, Justifies in my so doing. And I trust the advice I give you, may be correct and prudent, altho by yourself, may be considered, Binding and unnecessarily rigid. But believe me, In the end, if you are governed by System, discipline, and requisite regour, and at the same time my Example to you corresponding with such Instructions, and discipline, as I set forth, you will receive much knowledge, Your course and duty to perform regular, and at the same time your own duty, is plain and unchangeable before you. My advice in the first plan shall be explicite and plain, so there can be no misunderstanding. Regularity and punctuality to be your first and most important steps, be candid and have the Instructions of your employer, enforced promptly, and as nearly as comparable with his views, and orders, as possible, never be Idle in the field before you Labourers, for by so doing, the Example you set them, causes an Indolent habit among them, and they soon believe, that you are yourself careless and egligent to the Business of your Employer, consequently they feel themselves, at Liberty to be Indolent. If you give an Order, see that it is promptly, and properly obeyed, not left to their Judgement, whether your order, has been half executed or done to suit their convenience. Also in giving an order let it be well understood, by the one or they, who have to Execute it, So if it be improperly done, they can have no Reasonable excuse, to deter you frome causing such punishment as the case may require or deserve. Be careful to review yourself any work or order Executed before you say anything to those Engaged in executeing it, by such a course, you will always feel assureance in yourself, and avavoid the disagreeable feelings must prevail between yourself and employer, when he has detected you in Error Indolence, or, negligence, for one of the above faults must exist, when any occurrence of the kind takes place. The same perseverance and attention is requisite with you in all work done on the plantation.

Next deserveing your special care is attention to your Mules and the Lots. Method is Indispensible in the performance of this particular duty, as by negligence you not only break down and Kill up Stock, but it is encourageing wasteful habits & cruelty in your Lot Boys, and

inhumanity to animals whose value and Services to a plantation cannot be too highly appreciated. Every Ear of Corn fed away should be given under your own Eyes, and allowance every Mule or Horse with so many Ears—and so many bundles of fodder, by so doing you can form a correct Idea, what it requires to keep your animals in good order, for over feeding is not only wasteful, but by gorgeing animals, you destroy the appetite, and poor animals is the consequence, when you have a plenty & the most wasteful way of destroying provisions. Regular Salting must be attended to every Sunday, and your troughs cleansed. Twice a week If the weather is favourable before day of a morning your hve hands as well as the Lot•Boys should scrape up the Manure and collect it in a pile, which will be of vast importance for two reasons, the first the Value of the Manure, the Second, a clean Lot keeps your Mules clear of Scratches, and other diseases produced by filth and negligence, also make each plough hand, attend regularly to the Mule he ploughs, never let them change a Mule with each other, unless it be done for some necessary reason given by yourself, for if thy are allowed to plough or work each others Mules, abuse and negligence will be the result, and it will be difficult to ascertain correctly from whom the animal is iltreated. Each ploughing & attending to his own constantly can be made responsible for the condition of his animal, the same exactness and System must be adopted with the Gears, and ploughs. Next your Crib Lots and Cribs, your lot be kept clean all shucks placed in Sheltered pens, and cobs thrown in the Horse lot for manure. The Keys of your Cribs to be kept constantly by you, and the door never to be locked or unlocked except by yourself or Employer. What corn is taken out should be used only by your own knowledge, By trusting negroes with the keys to give out or take out corn, is only leading them into Temptation, and by so doing, they will soon pilfer, waste and make use of corn, in a way thievish.

Next to be attended to is Lots, made for different stock & kinds, Hog Lots, Sows & Pigs & pigs. Each should have separate Lots, Suitable to their respective Size & ages, for if they be fed in one lot, the larger Hogs would consume all from the Smaller, which would result in the death of the Smaller sizes. Range Hogs should be never enticed more than twice a week to the pan, if possible, for if they are accustomed to be fed regularly, they would soon be made lazy, and dependent on what you would give them, and never go in quest of food in their usual Range.

Lots must also be appropriated for Sheep, and so constructed, as a division can be easily made, when the Ewes, are about having their Lamb, for it is necessary, the Ewes & Lambs should be separated from the Wethers & Rams, at that period, as in fondness, for the young Lamb by the Wether, they are apt to paw them, in token of affection, which the delicate habits of the Young, cannot Stand. Also have shelters & Troughs in each lot for feeding and Salting, the last should be done regularly once a week. Some pains should be taken, to save the Manure from a Sheep lot, which is among the richest of Manures for Gardens &c.

Next are the Cowpens, which must be attended to from the plans of your Employer, as circumstances occur, relative, manureing fields or Lots, transpires. Consequently I will not note down this department, with the others, that must be constant and regularly attended to.

Such as the regular System, and mode of working, in preparing lands for the Crops designed, or working the Crop, Harvesting, and Housing it. I cannot in this place, give you my Ideas or views in part or full, as it must be taught you practically, and in the field, But if you pay attention to Orders, and have them promptly and punctually fulfilled, as recommended to you, in the first part of this Letter, you will soon become expert and fully acquainted with the duties requisite to one, in the occupation of An Overseer.

In Conclusion let me give you some advice, relative to a young man, pursuing steadily and soberly our Business, and do not pretend to change annually your occupation, believing or risking, that another kind of business is preferable or money can be more easily obtained, than, the one you have now selected, and engaged in, for by so doing, If you cannot be well assured of the Success to attend your new occupation, you may be again displeased, and desire, another change, so many successive changes is apt to result in loss of time and money, and the most to be feared, is producing a vassalating mind, a restless disposition, and finally, fit you for no occupation or Business—As men will loose all confidence in your Stability, believeing you to be a “Jack of all trades and Master of none”. Therefore pursue steadily the business you are now engaged in, with Pride, energy, perseverance and a determination to obey the orders of your Employer, and have your Orders to the negroes properly and punctually obeyed and executed, making them fear you and respect you, and depend upon it,

your future Success is in your own hands—and with ease to yourself—
for So soon as you have enforced among your negroes, discipline and
System, all business will be conducted with Ease & pleasure, without
Discipline and System everything will be attended with uncertainty,
trouble and great confusion. Ill-success and ruin the Result.

Good Hope, March 13, 1841.

[signed] JNO H. DENT

Book Reviews

A Check List of Alabama Imprints, 1807-1870. By Rhoda Coleman Ellison. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1946. ii, 149 pp. \$1.75.

A Check List of Alabama Imprints, 1807-1870 is an elaboration of the work of Thomas McAdory Owen, *A Bibliography of Alabama* (Washington, 1898), R. R. Bowker, *Alabama State Publications 1818-1908* (New York, 1908), Caroline P. Engsfeld, *Bibliography of Alabama Authors* (Birmingham, 1923), and other material developed in the Douglas C. McMurtrie WPA list of recent date. Professor Ellison, obviously, has made additions to the earlier bibliographies, particularly in the field of periodicals.

The *Check List* was begun as the bibliography for the compiler's doctoral dissertation. Because it had a value of its own, it was published separately from her main volume, *Early Alabama Publications: A Study in Literary Interests*.

Professor Ellison attempts to bring together a complete list of Alabama imprints for the period 1807-1870, and in this ambition she has wrought well. The items are arranged in three divisions. She lists 467 newspaper as Division I, 64 periodicals as Division II, and in Division III includes 1658 books, pamphlets, broadsides, maps, music and official state publications. The field of religious publications in Alabama is large and apparently this is well covered. The library location of each item is indicated and her list suggests that a great majority of them are available in collections within Alabama. Many, however, are deposited throughout the nation in such institutions as the American Antiquarian Society, the Library of Congress, and others as far west as the Huntington Library.

The work has most value to the student of Alabama history and will be a real contribution in that respect. Particularly is one impressed by the fact that newspapers published at Blakeley (a long since abandoned town in Baldwin County) are available. Claiborne newspapers for periods before statehood are noted at Worcester, Mass.

It is interesting to learn that William B. Travis, of Alamo fame, edited a volume at Claiborne, a town years since vanished, in February, 1829. The Alabama historian finds that three newspapers were published as early as 1860, at Benton, once an important cotton shipping port on the Alabama, but today only a small village in Lowndes County.

It is challenging to see that the Mobile *Centinel* was published at Fort Stoddert on the Mobile River in 1811, and that copies still exist. Thomas Eastin, Alabama's original state printer, published the *Halcyon* at St. Stephens on the Tombeckbe in 1815, and there are yet preserved copies of it. The *Alabama Baptist*, a journal still perpetuated by that name, is recorded at Wetumpka at a date prior to the removal to Marion in 1838.

The reviewer notes a few errors: one on page 8, two on page 88, one on page 131, and a few mechanical mishaps; but the value of the volume is not marred to any considerable extent by these defects. The greatest criticism which this reviewer holds is the manner of publication. Planograph printing is, in his opinion, the abomination of all processes of issuing books and a volume with the potentiality of this one deserves better treatment.

The compiler has been criticized for her handling of the index. However, we find no particular fault with it. Included in the volume is an index of newspapers, one of periodicals and one of authors. There is no subject index, but that fact offers no particular imperfection, as the treatment of the character of publications by the student is largely a matter of individual concept.

Research in Alabama history is made more conveniently available through the use of Miss Ellison's work. For the preparation of it, she is to be congratulated.

PETER A. BRANNON

Alabama Department of Archives and History

Gallant Rebel: the Fabulous Cruise of the C. S. S. Shenandoah. By Stanley F. Horn. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1947. viii, 292 pp. Bibliography. \$2.75.

This book was not written for the professional historian, as the complete absence of footnotes would indicate. The fact that only seven titles appear in the bibliography (p. 292) in itself suggests that

the study was less than exhaustive. A few additional titles were used, such as the diary of Dr. Lining and that of Midshipman Mason, both in the Confederate Museum at Richmond (p. viii), the log and other official documents in the Navy Department. Not listed in the bibliography are contemporary newspapers of the Union, the Confederacy, England or Australia, although the author gives evidence of having consulted some of them, for example the *London Times*, p. 284, and the *Melbourne Daily Herald*, p. 123.

Evidently used, but not listed in the bibliography, was James D. Bulloch, *The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe*. Listing in the bibliography of the *Southern Historical Society Papers* does not show which papers were used, but doubtless includes the memoirs of John Grimball and of William C. Whittle, which were published in that collection.

The bibliography does not list the following significant accounts relating to the subject: J. T. Mason, "The Last of the Confederate Cruisers," in *The Century Magazine*, August, 1898; Jim Dan Hill, "James Iredell Waddell," in the *Dictionary of American Biography*; James M. Callahan's sketch of Bulloch in the same (nor any other accounts in this useful work); *The Case of Great Britain as Laid before the Tribunal of Arbitration Convened at Geneva*; James R. Soley, *The Blockade and the Cruisers*; nor David D. Porter, *The Naval History of the Civil War*.

Since no footnotes are employed, even for the numerous direct quotations, including conversation, the reader is left to speculate concerning the accuracy of the information, a situation which historians are certain to deem unsatisfactory. With such basic shortcomings Horn's book is considerably less than a definitive account of *Shenandoah*.

There is no index.

The book contains less of the whys and wherefores of the Confederate cruiser war than a historian might desire, but it is a clearly written narrative history of a great adventure. The portrayal of the much-criticized skipper, James I. Waddell, is sympathetic. The analyses of the wardroom conflicts are judicious.

Despite the limitations of the book, it is the most useful single title for the cruise of the *Shenandoah*. In the absence of a definitive study, this ship and this book are so interesting that many historians

will profitably spare the few hours needed to read the stirring episodes of the Civil War in the Pacific and the Arctic Oceans.

The pages begin with the "Confederate Undercover Men" in England who eluded the watchful agents of the Union sufficiently to get *Sea King* and *Laurel* under way to commission the Confederate cruiser at sea. The bark *Alina* of Searsport, Maine, was the first victim of *Shenandoah* and yielded needed supplies, including blocks for gun tackles, the lack of which made *Shenandoah* a fighting ship in name only. From *Alina* also were enlisted in the Confederate service five seamen and a coal passer to serve the shorthanded cruiser. Then *Alina* was scuttled. Within a week five additional Yankee ships were burned. James I. Waddell in *Shenandoah* was following the procedures of Raphael Semmes in *Sumter* and of the later Confederate cruisers. He was beginning a cruise of commerce raiding which was second only to *Alabama* in damage to the Union merchant ships, and which ended in the Arctic Ocean when nine ships were burned, more than two months after the surrender of Lee.

When the ship's company of *Shenandoah* finally learned of the war's end, Waddell completed this Confederate circumnavigation of the globe, and returned the ship to Great Britain before surrendering.

Repetition of the pattern of destruction never becomes monotonous in this narrative, such are the variations and such the excitement.

The author's simple and direct literary style is suitable for this salty tale of the Confederacy.

CHARLES G. SUMMERSELL
University of Alabama

The Civil War Diary of General Josiah Gorgas. Edited by Frank E. Vandiver. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1947. xii, 208 pp. \$3.00.

This publication marks the entrance of an unusual person into the ranks of the young historians of the South. The author has had little or no formal training in historical research and investigation, but under the inspiration of Dr. Charles Ramsdell of the University of Texas and his own father he has a sound knowledge of the importance of original manuscripts and keenness in finding them. He has, moreover, the winning ability to obtain manuscripts. Several other established historians have attempted to obtain the Gorgas diary from his

daughters, but it was left to this twenty-one year old neophyte to persuade them to publish it.

Mr. Vandiver has done an excellent editorial job. With the assistance of several of the ablest southern historians he has turned out a more than creditable job. The notes are both accurate and helpful.

The diary itself, however, is disappointing. General Josiah Gorgas, father of the more famous William Gorgas of the Panama Canal, was Chief of Ordnance of the Confederate Army throughout the entire Civil War. His journal covers a twenty-year stretch from 1857 to 1877, but Mr. Vandiver has published only that part of it which relates particularly to the Civil War. The diary apparently was kept as a record of the events for his son Willie, and there is almost nothing in the entire 186 pages which relates to General Gorgas' own work, the thing we want most to know about. Gorgas was one of the ablest of the Confederate officials, and the Ordnance Department was operated with high efficiency. The diary would be far more valuable to historians if it were a record of General Gorgas' own activities, and if it contained an analysis of his problems as he faced them.

This is not to imply, however, that the diary is without interest. There are numerous comments on the conditions in the Confederacy. This passage dated March 25, 1863 could almost be printed in any contemporary newspaper:

We now pay three dollars per pound for butter; two dollars for eggs; a turkey costs fifteen dollars; beef is \$1.50 per pound; common domestic is two dollars a yard; calicos are unobtainable. Of course in this state of things many colossal fortunes will be made. It is currently believed that the enterprizing firm of John Frazer and Company, at Charleston have already made nine millions of dollars by importations. The manufacturing and business firm of the Crenshaw's here are making out of woolen factories and flour contracts many hundreds of thousands monthly. But we salaried officers who do the work of the war are pinched. My pay will actually not purchase one thousand dollars' worth in ordinary times.

His comments on his fellow officers are illuminating. The news from Chancellorsville depressed him and he wrote on May 8:

It is deplorable that all our sacrifices of life and all our successes lead to no decisive result. Is this owing to our inferior numbers, or to want of solidity in the commands, or, finally, to want of genius in our commanders?

In August 1862 he heard rumors of the impending engagement in Chattanooga and wrote for the future benefit of his young son:

Our troops are now face to face with the enemy; Bragg at C. Jackson at Gordonsville. Buell opposes Bragg and Pope, Jackson. Pope is morally worthless—Jackson is a just and upright man and in earnest. Providence will help the righteous man

who puts his shoulder to the wheel. Between Bragg and Buell there is little to choose on the score of morality.

But in the last analysis the greatest value of the diary, as the editor points out, is the insight that it gives us to the man himself. He was an affectionate family man and constantly referred to his wife as "Mama," even then the almost universal appellation of the American husband for his wife. More important are his personal attitudes toward the other Confederate officials including Jefferson Davis.

We understand that Mr. Vandiver is working on a biography of General Gorgas and we look forward to that to supply the gaps in General Gorgas' own account of his life.

PHILIP DAVIDSON

Vanderbilt University

Early Alabama Publications: a Study in Literary Interests. By Rhoda Coleman Ellison. University, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1947. xii, 213 pp. \$4.00.

This study is limited to poetry, fiction, drama, and essays from representative types of publications. A companion volume by Dr. Ellison, Professor of English at Huntingdon College, *A Check List of Alabama Imprints, 1807-1870* was published in 1946. Together, the two publications cover the history of printing and publishing in Alabama from 1807 to 1870, the frontier period. (In 1807 the first publication was issued at Wakefield, Mississippi Territory, now part of the state of Alabama.)

The first section of the book is devoted to a study of publishing, which is essentially the history of newspaper publishing in the state. The newspaper offices printed and published most of the books, periodicals, and pamphlets issued. Dr. Ellison states that the newspaper editor was "the enlightener of the backwoods."

Newspapers had a strong influence in directing the literary tastes of Alabamians. A large part of the literary material and news was copied from Eastern papers. Occasional pieces of literature were published, reflecting the southern frontier life. Of the latter, Johnson J. Hooper's "Simon Suggs" stories are the most outstanding.

About sixty periodicals began publication in Alabama from 1807 to 1870. Most of these were of short duration, only two lasting as long as ten years, although northern periodicals continued to be favorites

in southern homes. A great deal of the periodical reading matter consisted of fiction and poetry. However, the thoughts of contemporary writers on a variety of subjects has been preserved in this literature.

Since pamphlets were much easier to issue, their publication far outnumbered that of books. Both types of publishing during this period were so beset with difficulties that many authors negotiated with northern publishers.

In conclusion, Dr. Ellison states that "in all forms of literature the conventional themes were dominant over those of native origin until the latter part of the period." In the fifties and sixties, defense of slavery and the Confederacy were dominant.

The work is readable, well documented, but somewhat repetitious because of the form of organization. It is, however, a distinct contribution to the study of early literature in the state of Alabama.

DONALD E. THOMPSON
University of Alabama

A Southern Vanguard. The John Peale Bishop Memorial Volume. Edited by Allen Tate. New York: Prentice-Hall, 1947. 331 pp. \$4.50.

John Peale Bishop, a West Virginian who died in 1944 after a distinguished career as a writer, deserves the homage of this book. "Southern writers of the post-war period," Allen Tate remarks in his brief preface, "will have to find out what Bishop did or run the risk of catching up with what he did only after rediscovering it for themselves a generation later." Tate includes as example an essay and a poem by Bishop. The essay, "Poetry and Painting," is a penetrating examination of temporal and spatial elements in the arts (Joseph Frank has explored the general theory at some length in the 1945 volume of the *Sewanee Review*); the poem recounts a somber "death-haunted dream," yet with a paradoxical lightness that is almost ballad-like.

The essays, poems, and short stories in the anthology were entries in the John Peale Bishop Memorial Literary Prize Contest conducted by the *Sewanee Review* in 1945, when Tate was its editor. Fiction and poetry prizes were open only to Southerners; non-Southerners were eligible to enter essays on Southern subjects. Eight of the twenty-eight items collected, including Bishop's and the three prize-winning titles, have had previous publication.

The essays alone testify adequately to what Robert B. Heilman calls the South's "highly disciplined literacy." In addition to Malcolm Cowley's prize-winning "William Faulkner's Legend of the South," there are discerning studies of Thomas Wolfe, Eudora Welty, and Robert Penn Warren. Robert Wooster Stallman writes an excellent survey of literary criticism in the South, and Louis B. Wright makes a shrewd analysis of the Negro problem. In the poetry section there is evidence enough of the subtle complexity of Southern poets: Randall Jarrell's "The Marchen," a symbolic treatment of Grimm's Tales which won the poetry award; Parker Tyler's sophisticated "Achilles and the Tortoise;" Robert Daniel's Eliot-inspired "The Problem of Evil;" and George Marion O'Donnell's metaphysical "Time's Well."

O'Donnell, a member of the department of English at Alabama Polytechnic Institute since 1941, appears again in the fiction section with "The Trigger," a deft handling of a plot involving a high-school boy and his English teacher neatly placed in a framework of Noyes' "Highwayman." Adolescence face to face with a maturing experience provides a favorite dramatic situation: Andrew Lytle's fine psychological study titled "The Guide," which won the fiction prize, seems almost to set a standard theme for the story writers. A greater part of the contributors have already established reputations, but the anthology includes, as Tate suggests, several young fiction writers of "promise." One expects for example, to hear more of LeRoy Leatherman, Eleanor Ross, and Peter Taylor.

HOWARD H. CREED

Birmingham-Southern College

News and Notices

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

by JAMES F. SULZBY, JR., PRESIDENT

Impelled by the lack of a proper organization to encourage historical interest in Alabama, thirty-three individuals representing the academic as well as other walks of life assembled in Montevallo, April 19, 1947, and organized the Alabama Historical Association. Charter members are:

BRANTLEY, WILLIAM H., JR.,
Watts Building, Birmingham
BRANNON, PETER ALEXANDER,
Dept. of Archives and History,
Montgomery
CARDON, HUGH, Federal Building,
Birmingham
CHAPMAN, DR. JAMES H., Howard College, Birmingham
CHAPPELL, DR. G. T., Huntingdon College, Montgomery
DALE, DR. WILLIAM PRATT, Howard College, Birmingham
DAVIS, DR. CHARLES, Huntingdon College, Montgomery
DAVIS, P. O., Ala. Polytechnic Institute, Auburn
FARMER, DR. HALLIE, Alabama College, Montevallo
GANDRUD, MRS. B. W., 311 Caplewood Terrace, Tuscaloosa
HAILS, MISS FRANCES MATTHEWS,
Dept. of Archives and History,
Montgomery
HARRIS, DR. SEALE, Birmingham

HOOLE, DR. W. STANLEY, University of Alabama, University
IRONS, DR. GEORGE V., Howard College, Birmingham
JONES, DR. WALTER, University of Alabama, University
JONES, JUDGE WALTER B., Court House, Montgomery
JORDAN, DR. W. T., Ala. Polytechnic Institute, Auburn
KILPATRICK, DR. EMMETT, State Teachers College, Troy
KELLY, MISS MAUD McLURE,
Dept. of Archives and History,
Montgomery
MARTIN, THOMAS WESLEY, 600 North 18th St., Birmingham
MOORE, DR. A. B., University of Alabama, University
OWEN, MRS. MARIE BANKHEAD,
Dept. of Archives and History,
Montgomery
PARKS, DR. JOSEPH H., Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham

REYNOLDS, DR. A. W., Ala. Poly-
technic Institute, Auburn

SARGENT, GEORGE T., Ala. Poly-
technic Institute, Auburn

SARKISS, DR. H. J., Howard Col-
lege, Birmingham

SENSABAUGH, DR. LEON F., Bir-
mingham-Southern College,
Birmingham

SMITH, LEWIS M., 600 North
18th Street, Birmingham

STABLER, DR. CAREY, Alabama
College, Montevallo

STANLEY, C. M., *Alabama Jour-
nal*, Montgomery

SULZBY, JAMES F., JR., 4212 Over-
look Road, Birmingham

TILLEY, JOHN S., Montgomery
Alabama

Since the organizational meeting the membership of the Associa-
tion has increased to more than 200.

Officers of the Association, as elected at the first meeting, are
James F. Sulzby, Jr., Birmingham, president; Dr. A. B. Moore, Uni-
versity of Alabama, vice-president, and Miss Maud McLure Kelly,
Montgomery, secretary-treasurer.

The Executive Committee is composed of the officers of the Asso-
ciation and four elected members, as follows: Dr. William Pratt Dale,
Howard College, Dr. A. W. Reynolds, Alabama Polytechnic Institute,
Dr. Henry T. Shanks, Birmingham-Southern College, and William H.
Brantley, Jr., Birmingham.

The following constitution was adopted:

CONSTITUTION

Adopted at the first meeting at Alabama College, Montevallo,
Alabama, April 19, 1947

ARTICLE I—NAME

1. The name of this organization is THE ALABAMA HISTORI-
CAL ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE II—OBJECT

2. The object of the Association is to discover, procure, preserve and
diffuse whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, cultural,
economic, ecclesiastical and political history of the State of Ala-
bama.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERS

3. Any person interested in promoting the objects of the Association and who is satisfactory to the Executive Committee of the Association shall be eligible for membership by invitation of the Executive Committee.
4. The membership shall consist of active members, who are liable to dues, and in whom are vested the exclusive control of the affairs of the Association.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS

5. The officers shall be a president, a vice-president, and a secretary-treasurer. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of seven members, three of whom are the officers of the Association and four members to be elected by the Association. The officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year. No officer of the Association shall serve for a period longer than two years, except the secretary-treasurer. The duties and powers of the officers shall be such as usually pertain to their position, except as hereinafter provided. Vacancies occurring between annual meetings shall be filled by the Executive Committee.
6. The president of the Association shall serve as chairman of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the following duties and powers: to elect members, to regulate the time and place of meeting, to arrange and provide programs for all meetings, to regulate the expenditure of the funds of the Association, and shall have all necessary general control and supervision of its work.

ARTICLE V—MEETINGS

7. An annual meeting of the Association shall be held at a place and time as may be directed by the Executive Committee. At this meeting, in addition to any other business or exercises which may be provided, the annual election of officers shall take place, and annual reports by the secretary-treasurer, the Executive Commit-

tee and other committees shall be made. A notice thirty days in advance of the annual meeting shall be sent to all members.

8. The Executive Committee may provide for any other meeting which it may deem necessary in the work or for the good of the Association. For a call meeting a notice ten days in advance shall be given each member of the Association by the secretary-treasurer.
9. At the meeting of the Association not less than twenty members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

ARTICLE VI—DUES

10. Annual dues shall be Three (\$3.00) Dollars, payable during the month of April in each year. The fiscal year of the Association shall be from April 1st to March 31st of each year. Members who permit their dues to become delinquent in excess of three months shall no longer be considered members. Dues shall be paid to the secretary-treasurer.

ARTICLE VII—DEPOSITORY

11. The Association will not have an official depository and it shall be left to the discretion of each member to select one of his own choosing. It shall be the purpose of the Association to co-operate with all libraries in the State.

ARTICLE VIII—AMENDMENTS

12. This Constitution may be amended at the annual meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present, provided, the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to each member of the Association by the secretary-treasurer, at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

THE ASSOCIATION will hold its next annual meeting in Montgomery, at the Jefferson Davis Hotel, April 17, 1948.

The visiting speaker for this occasion will be Dr. Wendell Holmes Stephenson, professor of history at Tulane University and erstwhile editor of *The Journal of Southern History*, and now managing editor of *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review*.

• • •

The possibility of publishing a journal was discussed at the organizational meeting, and it is with pride that the Association, through the beneficence of the University of Alabama, now issues *The Alabama Review*.

Knowledge of the past helps men to direct themselves to a better future. If the Alabama Historical Association can offer assistance in this direction, its purpose of existence shall have been fulfilled.

• • •

THE ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT of Archives and History, Montgomery, has received a large collection of the papers of Edward Harris (1754-1863) as a gift from William Ustick Harris, his grandson, of Jackson. Edward Harris, a well-known naturalist, early conducted many forward-looking experiments in fruit culture, farming, breeding of horses, etc. The collection is described in a brochure by Peter A. Brannan, *Edward Harris, Friend of Audubon*, recently published by the American Branch of the Newcomen Society of England.

• • •

MRS. AILEEN GORGAS WRIGHTSON of Chevy Chase, Maryland, a daughter of General William Crawford Gorgas, has donated to the University of Alabama Library a collection of approximately 1,000 manuscripts from her father's personal library. Among the items are letters from such notable figures as John J. Pershing, William Howard Taft, Alexis Carrel, Newton D. Baker, and William Osler.